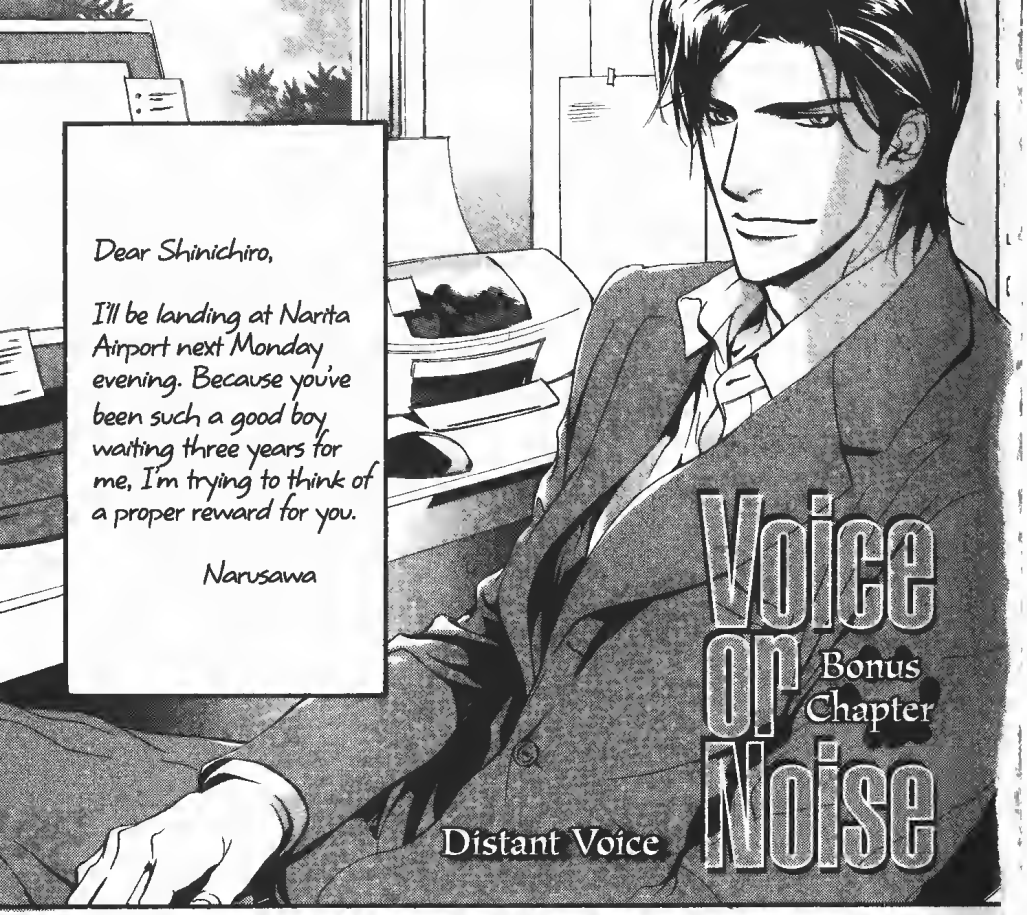
Dear Shinichiro,
I'll be landing at Narita Airport next Monday evening. Because you've been such a good boy waiting three years for me, I'm trying to think of a proper reward for you.
Narusawa
Voice or Noise
Bonus Chapter
Distant Voice

A REWARD FOR WAITING LIKE A GOOD BOY?
AND IT WASN'T JUST A SHORT BREAK HOME AFTER HIS LONG ABSENCE. HE WAS SERIOUSLY RETURNING TO JAPAN.
NARUSAWA-SAN WAS FINALLY COMING HOME.

Voice or Noise 3

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WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHY?
YOU MEAN I CAN'T WAIT AND HAVE KITTENS?
Huh?
WHY NOT?
NO.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU WAITED LIKE A GOOD BOY, ALL BY YOUR LONESOME...
...YOU DESERVE A REWARD FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND ENDURANCE?
<3
UH, YEAH.
IS THAT RIGHT?

GRIN
W-WHAT IS IT?
I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA WHAT THAT SPECIAL "REWARD" ENTAILS.
OH, I KNOW WHAT IT IS. YUP, YUP!

Ulp!
WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT, ACHT?
A REWARD!
THAT WORD... "REWARD."
THAT'S GOT MY HEAD GOING PLACES.

DIDN'T YOU READ THE LETTER? IT SAYS THAT ONLY I'M GETTING THE REWARD. ME, MYSELF, AND I!
YES. A REWARD.
Hee hee!
ONLY THAT I'M GETTING A REWARD, TOO!
NAH-UH!

I DON'T SEE YOUR POINT.
EVERY-THING!
AND WHAT EXACTLY DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH IT?
I WAS WAITING LIKE A GOOD BOY TOO, WASN'T I?
WHAT? NO WAY!
IT'S NOT THE SAME! YOU HAD TONS OF KITTENS OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS MAD-LONELY, I STILL WAITED!

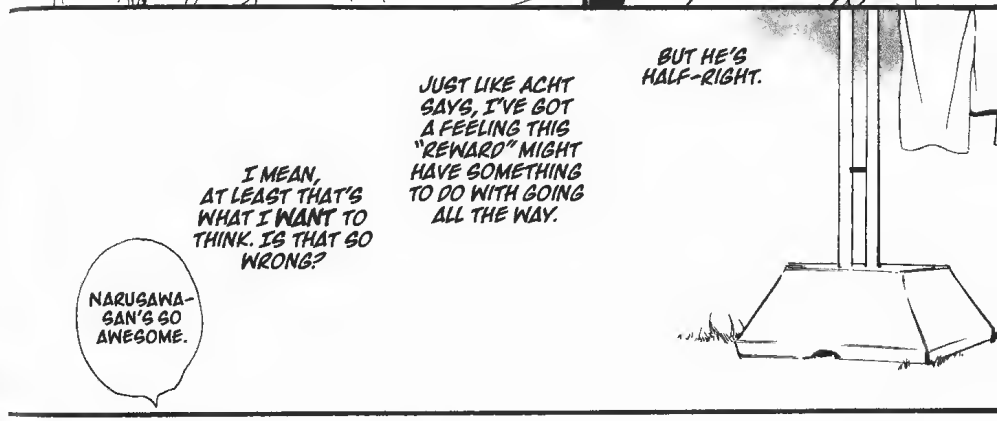
AW, SHIN-CHAN, YOU'RE ALREADY IN THE MOOD, HUH?
I MEAN...
...SHOULD I START LOOKING FORWARD TO IT?
ERK!
Oh, you naughty boy, hee hee!

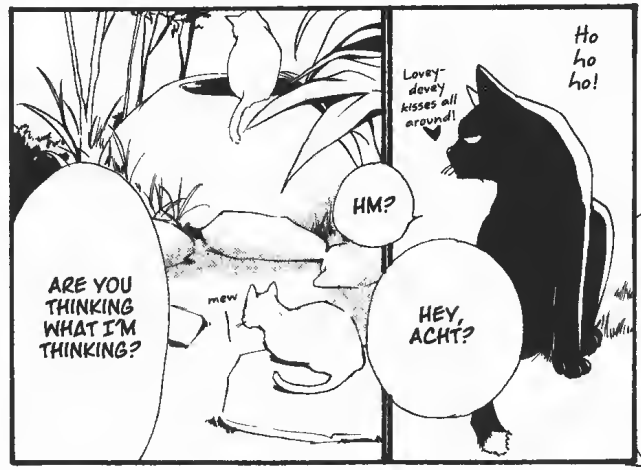
"SHINICHIRO."
"A GOOD BOY DESERVES A PROPER REWARD."

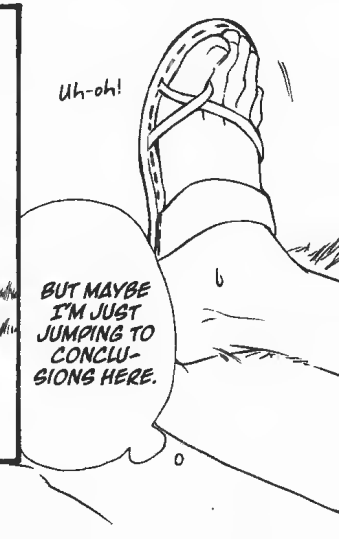
I KNEW IT!
HE SO MEANS DOING THE HANKY-PANKY!
WAIT, I DON'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE.

Glance

HOLO IT.
MEAR!
HE'S GOING TO BEEP YOU IN YOUR BEEP AND BEEP--
MEAR!


BUT HE'S HALF-RIGHT.
JUST LIKE ACHT SAYS, I'VE GOT A FEELING THIS "REWARD" MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH GOING ALL THE WAY.
I MEAN, AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO THINK. IS THAT SO WRONG?
NARUSAWA-SAN'S SO AWESOME.


ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?
mew
HM?
HEY, ACHT?
Lovey-dovey kisses all around!
Ho ho ho!


Uh-oh!
BUT MAYBE I'M JUST JUMPING TO CONCLU-SIONS HERE.

YES, AND NO.
AND IS THAT A PROBLEM SOMEHOW?
CAW
CAW
WELL, SORTA. I'M NOT SURE.
IS THAT A BAD THING?
IF HE SAYS "MY, YOU'VE GROWN" THE MOMENT HE SEES ME...
YEAH.
I KNEW YOU SEEMED BIGGER.
Huh.
OH, IS THAT SO?
WHOA!
YOU'VE REALLY GROWN AGAIN!
I JUST WONDER WHAT NARUSAWA-SAN WILL SAY...
...WHEN HE LANDS.
LIKE WHAT HE SAID BEFORE.
I DUNNO...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SHIN-CHAN?
HM?
YEAH.
I DON'T LIKE IT.
I GUESS IT'LL MAKE FEEL... SORTA SAD.
Ha ha!
pfft!
WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
...YOU CAN HAVE AN EQUALLY SEXY WORD TO MATCH HIS "REWARD."
PUNISH-MENT. ♡
IF NARUNARU SAYS "MY, HOW YOU'VE GROWN," YOU JUST TURN AROUND AND "PUNISH" HIM.
BECAUSE IT'LL EMPHASIZE JUST HOW LONG WE'VE BEEN APART.
Nyu
ACHT...
WELL? ♡
Ha ha ha.
WELL, YOU ARE GOING THROUGH ANOTHER GROWTH SPURT.
YOU'RE AT THE PEAK OF YOUR YOUTH.
It's no wonder your imagination's running wild with this "reward" business.
SINCE I LAST SAW HIM...
...I'VE GROWN ANOTHER FIVE CENTIMETERS.

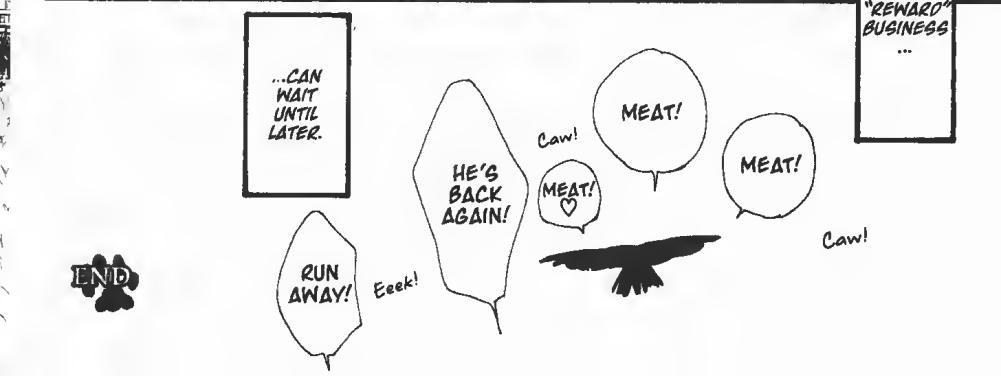
Voice or Noise

Bonus Chapter

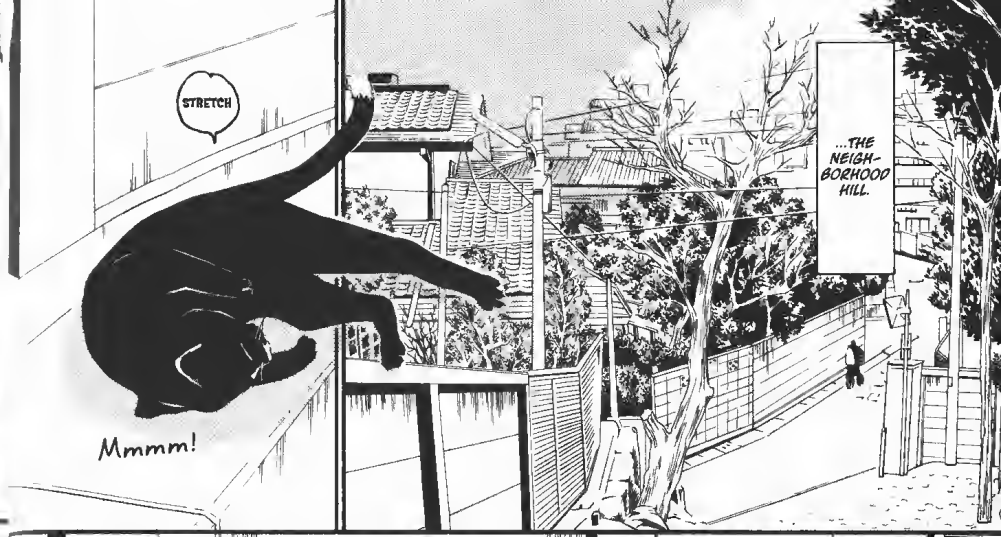
Jobs

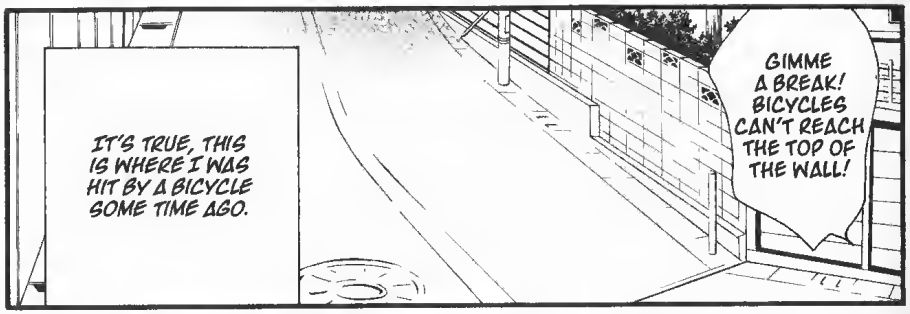
FIRST IS THE RIVER.
ALL SORTS OF CARP LIVE HERE, AND I NEVER GET SICK OF WATCHING THEM EVERY DAY.
I'M CONVINCED THE LOCH NESS MONSTER LIVES HERE, TOO.

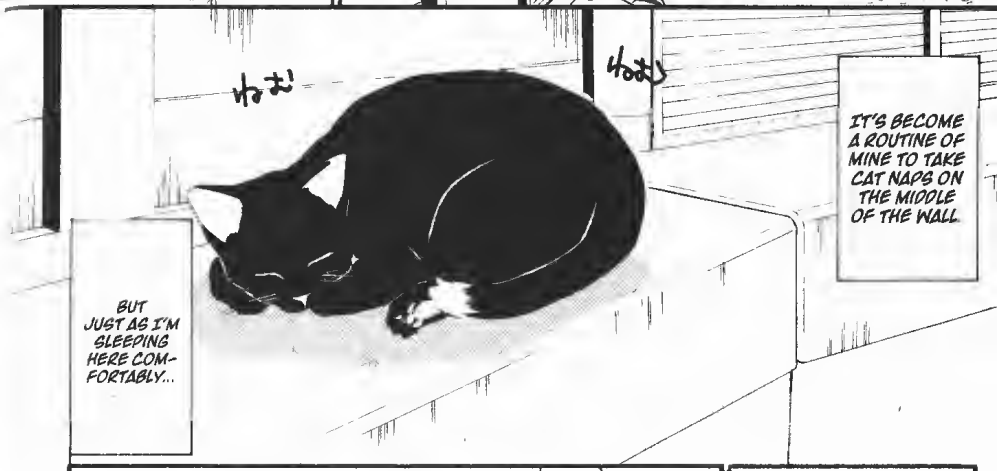
ANYWAY...
WELL, IT IS TRUE...
...YOU'VE GOT SOME REAL GUTS, SHIN-CHAN.
WHY DO YOU LIKE NARUNARU SO MUCH?
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.
THEN I CAN FINALLY FEEL RELIEVED.
...THAT I WANT TO SEE NARUSAWA-SAN RIGHT AWAY.
...TO HURRY HOME!
I JUST WANT TO TELL HIM...
REWAAAARD!

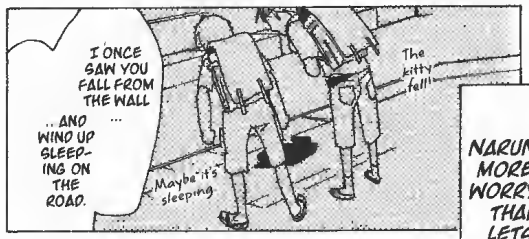


I call him "Narunaru" for short.
THIS IS MY GOOD HUMAN FRIEND NARUAKI NARUSAWA.
HE ONLY RECENTLY CAME BACK AFTER A THREE-YEAR STAY ABROAD.
IF YOU SLEEP HERE, YOU MIGHT GET HIT BY A BICYCLE AGAIN.


STRETCH
Mmmm!
...THE NEIGHBORHOOD HILL.


IT'S TRUE, THIS IS WHERE I WAS HIT BY A BICYCLE SOME TIME AGO.
GIMME A BREAK! BICYCLES CAN'T REACH THE TOP OF THE WALL!


IT'S BECOME A ROUTINE OF MINE TO TAKE CAT NAPS ON THE MIDDLE OF THE WALL.
BUT JUST AS I'M SLEEPING HERE COMFORTABLY...


I ONCE SAW YOU FALL FROM THE WALL ...
... AND WIND UP SLEEPING ON THE ROAD.
Maybe it's sleeping.
The kitty fell!

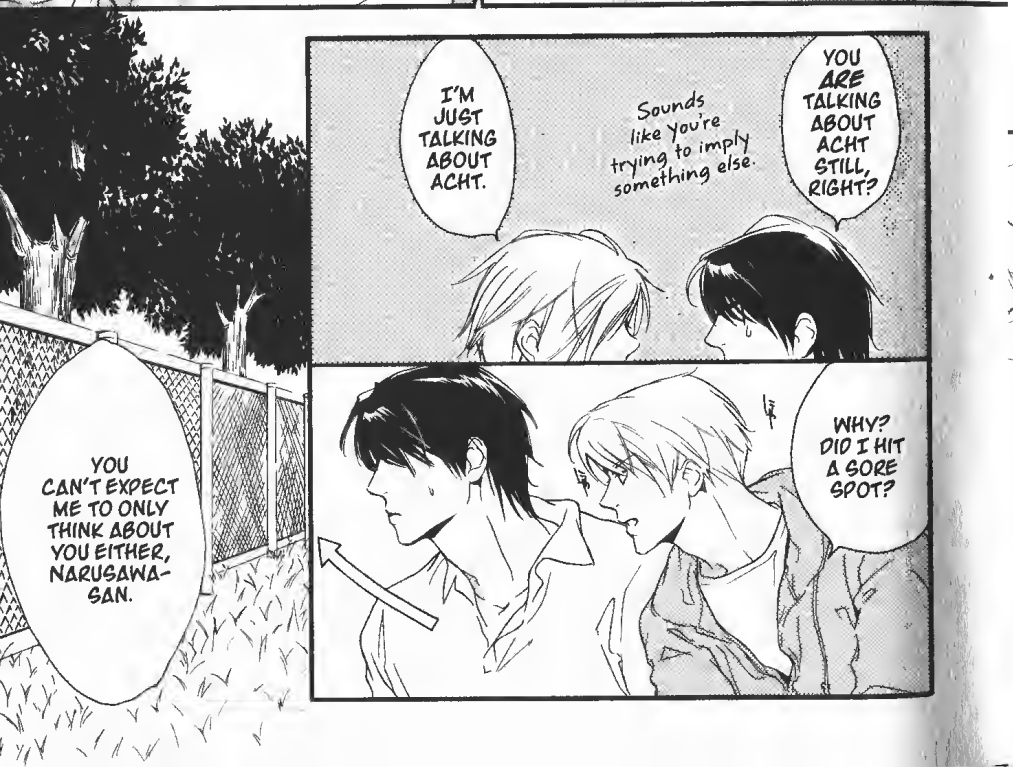
IT'S NO FAIR!
IT'S THE PERFECT SPOT FOR A NAP!
BUT THE SUNSHINE'S SO GOOD THERE, WITH A NICE COOL BREEZE.
Don't interrupt my naps!
Ow, ow, ow!
Quit climbing me!

NARUNARU'S MORE OF A WORRYWART THAN HE LETS ON.
AND FOR A WHILE, I BECAME A REGULAR CAT. (IN ESSENCE, MY SOUL WENT TO ANOTHER WORLD.)

YOU'RE A CAT.
I MEAN, I'M BEING CATNAPPED!
Somebody save me!
I'M BEING KIDNAPPED!
HEEEELP!
...I'M QUICKLY KIDNAPPED.

WHY'S THAT?
IT MIGHT BE BEST TO JUST LEAVE HIM THERE.
SEE FOR YOURSELF.
...SHIN-CHAN.
THAT'S THE VOICE OF HUMAN FRIEND #2...
WOULD YOU PLEASE MOVE?
Stretch
You're not moving me nowhere!
...I'm looking for the old man.
Inside the dream...
BUT I WON'T BE GETTING STUCK THERE LIKE LAST TIME.
OF COURSE I DON'T TELL HIM THAT PART.
...WHENEVER I SLEEP THERE, I FLY TO ANOTHER WORLD IN MY DREAMS.
ACTUALLY...
Huff! Huff!
.....
CAN I, UH, LICK IT FOR YOU?
MAN, THAT LOOKS ...
...PAIN-FUL.
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR TRYING TO PICK HIM UP WHEN HE'S SLEEPING IN THE GUTTER AGAIN.
If I get in his way again, he'll kick my butt.
GULP
This means...
NOW YOU CAN'T CLIMB YOUR WALL LIKE YOU USED TO.
NICE AND QUIET ...
Nom, nom, nom...
MAKING IT PER-FECT!
IT'S ALSO COOL AND QUIET HERE.
WE CAN'T PLACE THE MAT, SO WHAT DO WE DO?
UH-OH, LOOK! ACHT'S SLEEPING RIGHT THERE.
Flick
I HAVE ONE MORE NAPPING PLACE.
AND THAT'S BEHIND NARUNARU'S APARTMENT.

YOU HAVE BEEN GONE THREE YEARS.
YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO PICK UP WHERE YOU LEFT OFF LIKE NOTHING'S HAPPENED.
IT'S JUST TOO SUDDEN.


I'M JUST TALKING ABOUT ACHT.
Sounds like you're trying to imply something else.
YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT ACHT STILL, RIGHT?
WHY? DID I HIT A SORE SPOT?
YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO ONLY THINK ABOUT YOU EITHER, NARUSAWA-SAN.

IS HE REACHING HIS RE-BELLIOUS YEARS...
...OR SOME-THING?

.....

IT'S CUZ YOU'RE GETTING UP IN HIS BUSINESS TOO MUCH THESE DAYS, NARUSAWA-SAN.
I THINK I KNOW WHAT IT IS.
YOU THINK SO?
YEAH. YOU USED TO BE A LOT MORE HANDS-OFF.

YOU MEAN ACHT?
IT FEELS LIKE HE'S GOTTEN HOSTILE.
HE FREAKS WHEN I HOLD HIM.
AND HE'S OUT OF THE HOUSE A LOT.
Decided to wait until he gets up because they can't move him themselves

I'M IN COLLEGE ALREADY, Y'KNOW?
I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE.
I EVEN DECIDED ON K UNIVERSITY BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOU SAID YOU'D BE GOING BACK TO.
BUT NOW...
...WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL DECIDING ON...
...A DIFFERENT UNIVERSITY?!
ERK.
YOU'RE STILL MAD ABOUT THAT?
YOU BET I'M MAD!
Nngh!
Knghl
I WORKED SO HARD TO GET IN THERE!
WELL, YOUR REASONS FOR APPLYING WEREN'T REALLY GENUINE.
AND IN ANY CASE!
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING IMPORTANT?!
WHAT?
...MY REWARD FOR WAITING THREE YEARS LIKE A GOOD BOY.
WELL...
...THAT HAVING A PROFESSOR THAT YOU LIKE IS A GREAT REASON TO APPLY SOMEWHERE!
THAT'S NOT TRUE! YOU SHOULD KNOW...
Different meaning of "like"!
CAW.
Idiots.
THAT'S NOT THE SAME.
I'M STILL RIGHT!
YOU SAID...
...YOU'D GIVE ME A REWARD.

I THOUGHT YOU'D FORGET ABOUT ME.
YEAH.
HUH? ME?
BUT THE BIGGER PROBLEM IS YOU.
I FIGURED YOU'D PROBABLY LOSE INTEREST IN ME AFTER BEING APART.
TO BE HONEST, I WASN'T SURE IF YOU'D BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT FOR THREE YEARS.
I HAD TO USE ALL OF MY VACATION DAYS TO COME HERE.
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
LIKE, HOW LONG COULD YOU STAND WAITING WHILE I'M NOT AROUND?
YOU THOUGHT IT WAS JUST GOING TO GO AWAY IF I DIDN'T MENTION IT?
YES, YOU DID. DON'T PRETEND LIKE YOU DON'T REMEMBER.
Mrumph.
OH, I GUESS I DID SAY THAT IN MY LETTER.
WHILE I WAS OVER THERE...
AND WONDERED HOW LONG WE COULD KEEP THIS UP EVEN IF I WANTED YOU TO BE WITH ME.
...I THOUGHT ABOUT IF YOU'D STILL BE AROUND OR NOT.
THEN WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
Sorry!
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

I CAN'T KEEP IT STRAIGHT.
...HAPPY AND FRUSTRATED AT THE SAME TIME.
THAT MAKES ME...
ARE YOU UNHAPPY WITH YOUR REWARD?
IT'S NOT THAT I'M UNHAPPY WITH IT.
YOU'RE SO CLUELESS WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE!
OH. IS THAT HOW IT WORKS?
PEOPLE USUALLY SAY IT MORE CLEARLY, THAT'S ALL.
I'D BEEN WAITING FOR THOSE WORDS FOR SO LONG, AND NOW THEY'RE WORTHLESS.

YEAH, YOU DID SAY THAT. SO NOT FAIR.
YEAH.
WAIT...
I KNOW.
I LIKE YOU.
I KNOW.
THEY JUST RUN AWAY.
I KNOW.
YEAH, ADULTS ARE UNFAIR.
You just slipped it in with all the rest!
C'mon!
NO WAY.
I ALREADY DID!
SAY IT AGAIN!
LOOK ME IN THE FACE AND SAY IT!
HEY! NO FAIR!
THAT'S PART OF THE REWARD I PROMISED YOU.
WHAT?!

IT JUST IS.
THAT'S MY ROLE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "YOUR" JOB?
...IS LIKE A LULLABY TO MY EARS.
So you could say.
EVERY SLIGHT VIBRATION AND NAGGING...
NO, NO, NO. THAT'S MY JOB.
IT'S NO BIGGIE. I'LL JUST WAIT UNTIL HE WAKES UP.
That's way embarrassing
AND THAT'S ON THE LAPS OF THESE TWO LOVEBIRDS.
THERE'S ONE MORE PLACE I LIKE TO NAP.
He's such a smooth talker, except when it comes to saying "I like you."
This is so embarrassing.
AW, WELL.
IT'S MY JOB AS A CAT TO SLEEP.
COME ON, ACHT!
Acht, if you don't get up, your kittens will be here.
You deadbeat dad.

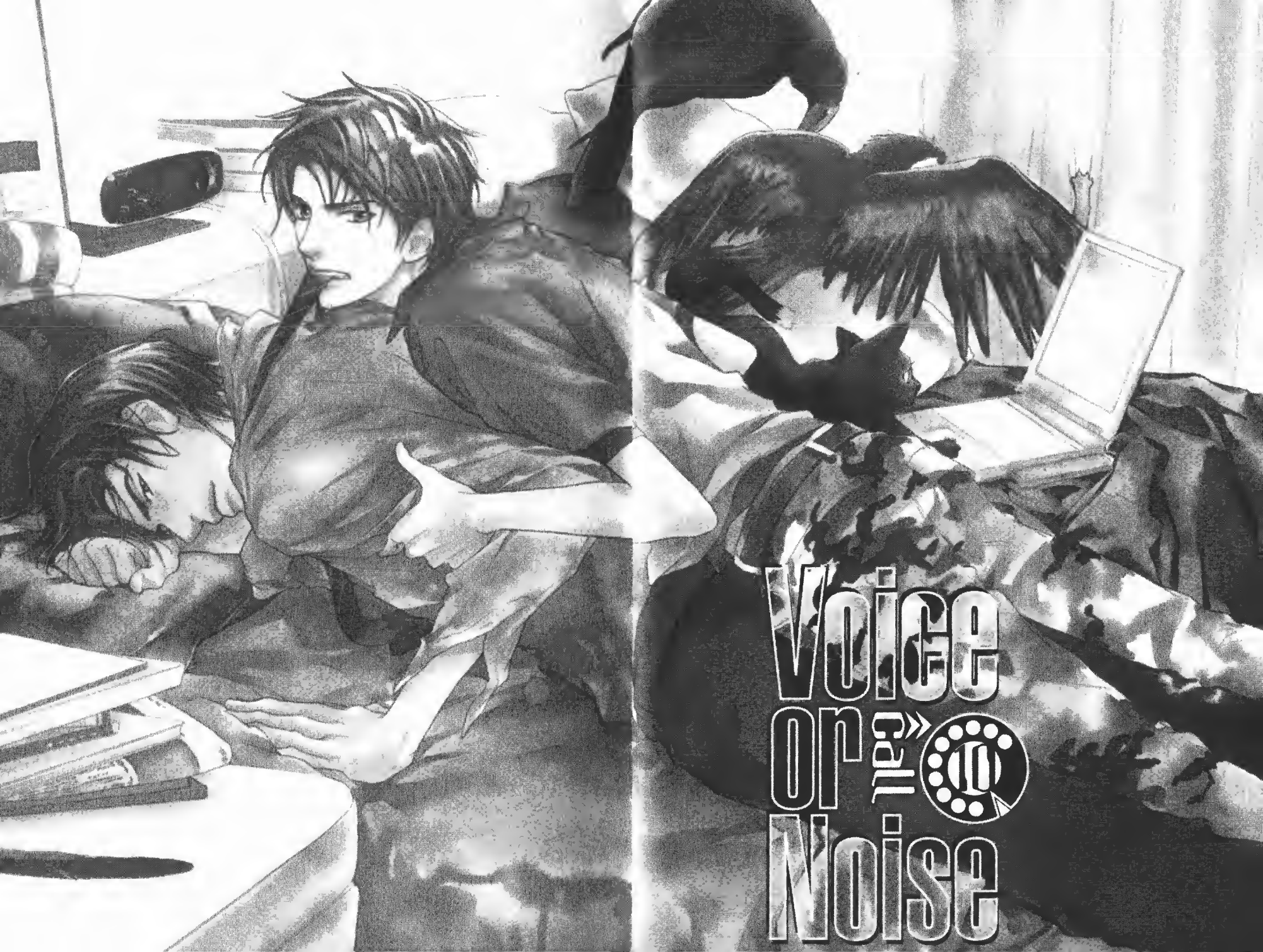
YES, I PLAN ON SLEEPING HERE.
UM, EXCUSE ME?
YOU DON'T PLAN ON SLEEPING HERE, DO YOU?
ACHT...
Mm-hm
My legs are going to go numb like this
HE'LL STICK HIS CLAWS INTO ME.
No can do
JUST SHOVE HIM OFF, SHINICHIRO.
MOVE IT, ACHT.
DEAD SERIOUS
THEN I'LL LICK YOUR WOUNDS FOR YOU.
.....

NARUSAWA-SAN FINALLY CAME BACK TO JAPAN...
...AFTER BEING AWAY FOR THREE YEARS LONG.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, SHINI-CHIRO.
WELCOME BACK!!
I THOUGHT THAT NOW WE'D FINALLY BE TOGETHER.
...HOW WRONG I WAS.
THAT HE WAS ALL MINE!

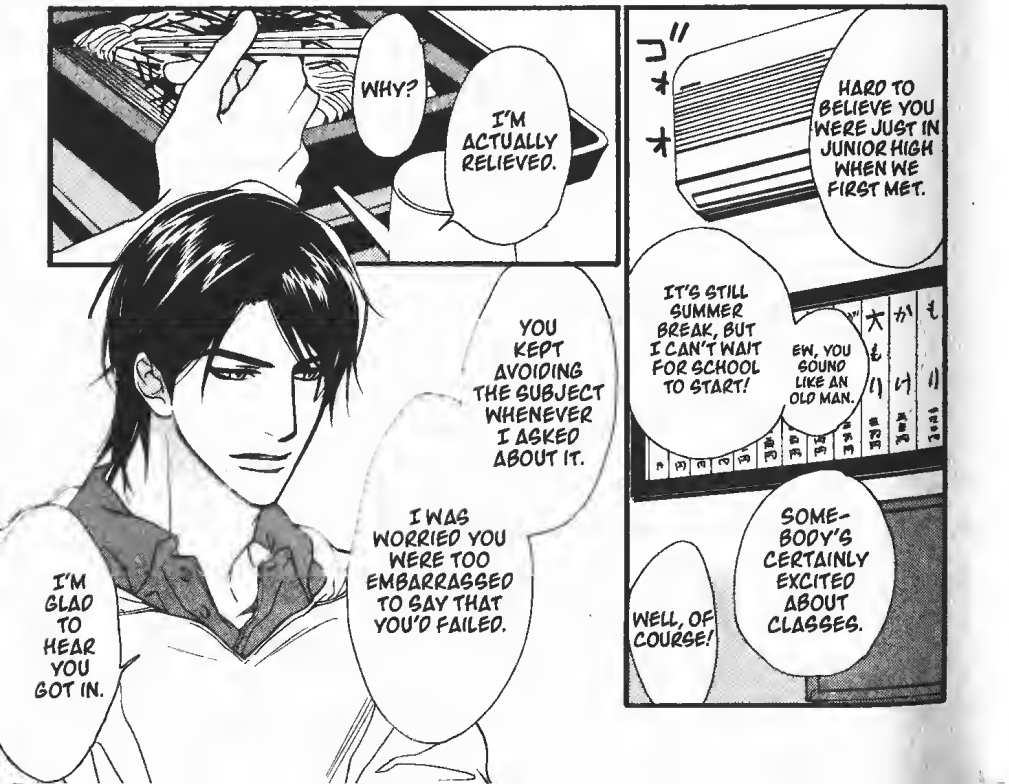
JUST AS IT'S A HUMAN'S JOB TO FALL IN LOVE.

EVEN IF THEY DO IT JUST TO GET A REWARD.

END


Voice
or
Noise
Call

NO KIDDING. YOU GOT INTO K UNIVERSITY? GOOD FOR YOU!
I LEARNED SOMETHING THAT DAY...
...AND IT'S THAT LIFE NEVER TURNS OUT THE WAY YOU WANT.
YUP, I'M A BONA FIDE COLLEGE STUDENT NOW!
TELL ME I'M AWESOME! ♡
Heh, heh!


WHY?
I'M ACTUALLY RELIEVED.
HARD TO BELIEVE YOU WERE JUST IN JUNIOR HIGH WHEN WE FIRST MET.
IT'S STILL SUMMER BREAK, BUT I CAN'T WAIT FOR SCHOOL TO START!
EW, YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD MAN.
YOU KEPT AVOIDING THE SUBJECT WHENEVER I ASKED ABOUT IT.
I WAS WORRIED YOU WERE TOO EMBARRASSED TO SAY THAT YOU'D FAILED.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU GOT IN.
WELL, OF COURSE!
SOMEBODY'S CERTAINLY EXCITED ABOUT CLASSES.

Hello, everyone! This is Enjin.

We've finally reached volume three, and boy, was it a long road!

Story-wise, I know it felt sorta half-developed. Sorry.

After one of the chapters was released, I got a lot of readers asking, "What, Shin-chan's the seme?" But to clarify, Shin-chan is just an uke who wants to be a seme really badly (even though he never will be).
I like creating weak semes but when the whole seducing the older man part comes in then the uke becomes weak too.
Then things just get terrible...
Anyway, when I was redoing some sketches, a friend that was staying the night read through it and told me that she wanted to see more talking with animals! How right she was.

When I begged her to help me with the script, she just made me dinner instead. I made gyoza by hand for the first time that night.

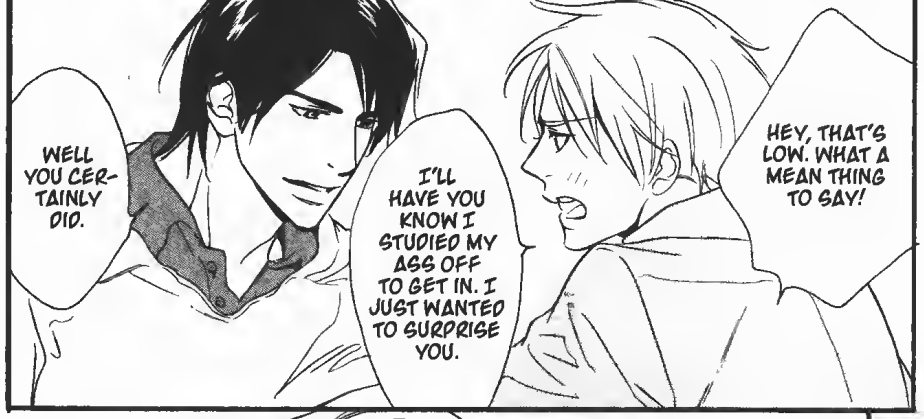
And so, I hope you enjoy reading!

2008.06 (En)

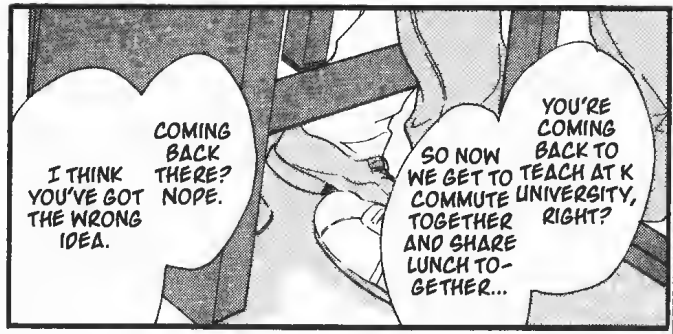
WHAT?!
HOW CAN THAT BE?!
IT JUST IS. THEY ASKED ME TO COME, SO I HAD TO.
Yup, yup
WH...
.....

Taking Narusawa-san's classes.
Bumping into each other "by chance" for lunch...
Sensei, what a coincidence! What do you say to a cup of tea?
NO... NO, THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO IT...
SNIFL
SNIFL
You're that crushed?
SHINI-CHIRO?


WELL YOU CERTAINLY DID.
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I STUDIED MY ASS OFF TO GET IN. I JUST WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU.
HEY, THAT'S LOW. WHAT A MEAN THING TO SAY!

Squeal!
WE CAN EVEN COMMUTE TO SCHOOL TOGETHER!
...WE FINALLY GET TO ENJOY A LOVEY-DOVEY ROMANTIC CAMPUS LIFE TOGETHER!
AND NOW...
Heh heh heh!


I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA.
COMING BACK THERE? NOPE.
SO NOW WE GET TO COMMUTE TOGETHER AND SHARE LUNCH TOGETHER...
YOU'RE COMING BACK TO TEACH AT K UNIVERSITY, RIGHT?

HUH?
Lovey-dovey what now?

F UNIVERSITY.
HUH?
I'M STARTING AT F UNIVERSITY IN SEPTEMBER.

WHAT'S GOING ON? I FEEL SO DOWN RIGHT NOW.
I JUST SAID THAT IF YOU APOLO-GIZE...
...THEN I'LL GET OVER IT. THAT'S IT.
DON'T SOUND LIKE YOU CAN'T PUT UP WITH ME.
JEEZUS, YOU'RE SUCH A CHILD.
...THAT WAR-RANTS AN APOLOGY.
BUT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...
.....

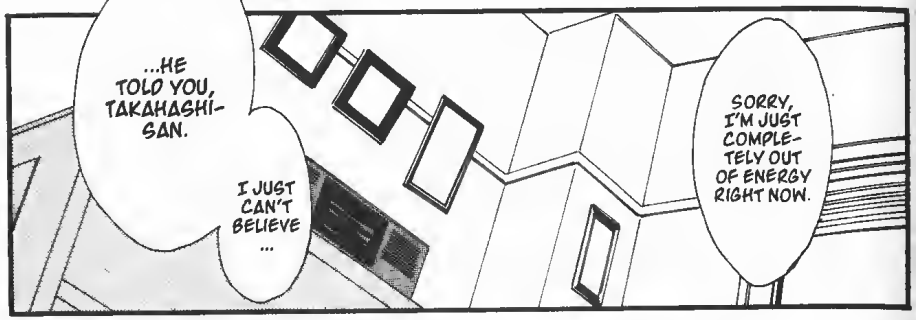
"I'LL BE BACK IN THREE YEARS."
DID I SAY SOMETHING TO GET YOUR HOPES UP, SHINICHIRO?
...STUPID FOR ASSUMING IT, DON'T YOU?
YOU THINK I'M...
I SEE.
MY ONE GLITTERING HOPE...
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MY REWARD FOR SURVIVING THE APPLI-CATION PROCESS.
JUST APOLO-GIZE!
Even if I technically jumped to conclusions.
JUST APOLOGIZE AND I'LL FORGIVE YOU.
EXCUSE ME?
.....
Sigh..
NARUGAWA-SAN!
NO, THAT'S NOT...
YOU SHOULD APOLO-GIZE FOR CRUSHING...
...MY BOYHOOD DREAMS.

IS HE STILL ANGRY ABOUT BEFORE?
...WHAT NARUSAWA-SAN'S THINKING.
I-I'M FREE TOMORROW.
GOOD.
TOMORROW.
HOW ABOUT TOMORROW?
HUH?
SEE YOU TOMORROW.

...I KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT.
KNOWING THAT HE'D PROBABLY JUST WRITE ME OFF AS A KID...
WE ENDED UP EATING THE REST OF OUR LUNCH IN SILENCE.
SURE IS HOT TODAY, HUH?
THINGS JUST WENT DOWNHILL FROM THERE.
YOU GOT IT!
TWO ORDERS OF ZARUSOBA, PLEASE!
I WONDER...
OKAY.
...TO GO TO HIS PLACE NOW.
IT'D BE WAY TOO AWKWARD...
GO HOME, I GUESS.
Man, I'm sweating out here
I DUNNO.
SO WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO NOW?

WHAT? AND YOU WENT HOME JUST LIKE THAT?
I'll get my revenge then!
GUESS THAT MEANS THERE'S NO HARM IN LOOKING FORWARD TO TOMORROW!
Mmm!
BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO SPEND THE WHOLE DAY TOGETHER AFTER MEETING HIM AT THE AIRPORT.
YEAH.
Heh...
HA HA.
YOU JUST GOT COLD FEET.
DID NOT!
WHAT MOOD? JUST JUMP HIM AND GET IT OVER WITH!
NAH, THE MOOD JUST WASN'T RIGHT.
AS IF! EASIER SAID...
...THAN DONE!

WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
HE JUST LEFT LIKE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG.
WAS I THE ONLY ONE WHO FELT THE TENSION IN THE AIR?
HOW COULD WE JUST HAVE LUNCH AND SAY GOOD-BYE?
I MEAN, I CAME ALL THIS WAY TO SEE HIM AS SOON AS HE LANDED.
Change of clothes
BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING ABOUT THAT LOOK IN NARUSAWA-SAN'S EYES.
"HOW ABOUT TOMORROW?"
.....
THIS IS HUMILIATING.
IT'S LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GETTING EXCITED.


...HE TOLD YOU, TAKAHASHI-SAN.
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE ...
SORRY, I'M JUST COMPLE-TELY OUT OF ENERGY RIGHT NOW.

.....
SHEESH.

SHIN-ICHIRO-KUN?
.....
SNIFL

I'LL BE WITH HIM ALL DAY FOR WORK.
ARE YOU REALLY THAT JEALOUS THAT I GET TO RUN ERRANDS FOR HIM?
Heh heh.
I SWEAR TO GOD, TAKAHASHI!

That's just not fair.
WELL, IT'S DIFFERENT BECAUSE I ACTUALLY WORK FOR HIM AS AN ASSISTANT.
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
I'M SO JEALOUS, MAN!

I JUST LEARNED HE WON'T BE GOING TO THE SAME ONE.
LIKE ABOUT GOING TO COLLEGE.
OH. SO YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT?
STUPID STUFF?
I KEEP RAMBLING ABOUT STUPID STUFF WHEN I'M WITH HIM.
IT WAS JUST TOO AWKWARD.
I THINK I'M STILL IN A FUNK.

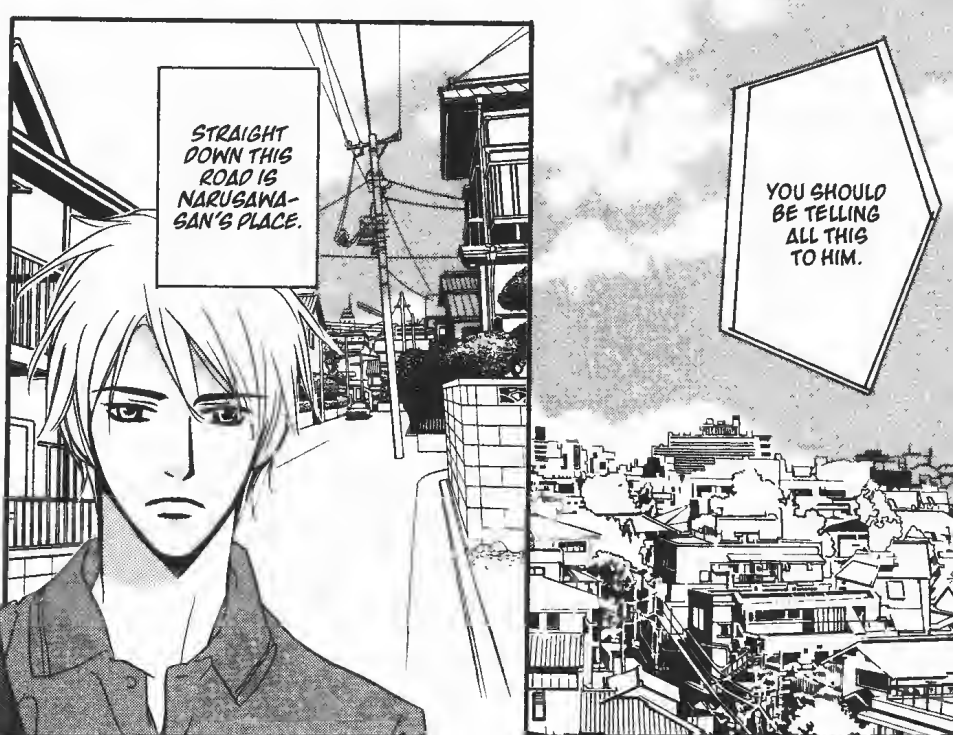
I COULON'T DO ANYTHING TO DISTRACT YOU FROM YOUR STUDIES.
WELL, I ONLY FOUND OUT ABOUT IT RIGHT BEFORE YOUR SECOND ENTRY EXAM.
.....
SHINICHIRO-KUN?
IF YOU KNEW THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!
HI

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?!
I'm a doctor now!
NATU-RALLY!
I'M THE PROFES-SOR'S NUMBER ONE PUPIL! I'VE ALREADY TRANSFERRED TO F UNIVER-SITY'S RESEARCH DEPARTMENT!

I JUST PASS BY THE PARK WHERE I WALK FLAPPY...
...CROSS THE RIVER...
...CLIMB UP THE STEEP HILL...
THAT'S WHEN NARUSAWA-SAN'S APARTMENT COMES INTO VIEW.
...AND THEN REACH THE STAIRS AT THE END OF THE ROAD.

WHAT HAPPENED?
THREE YEARS AGO...
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME EVERYTHING!
...WHEN I MET HIM WHILE IN JUNIOR HIGH?
PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT MY DOG'S SAYING!
BACK IN THE DAY, AWKWARD SITUATIONS DIDN'T EVEN FAZE YOU.
YOU'D STILL GO OVER TO NARUSAWA-SAN'S HOUSE.
WAS I LIKE THAT BEFORE?
IS THAT TRUE?

NO, I'M NOT CRYING.
ARE YOU CRYING?
.....
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE CRYING TO SOMEONE ELSE OVER THE PHONE?
LOOK, NARUSAWA-SAN'S FINALLY BACK, RIGHT?

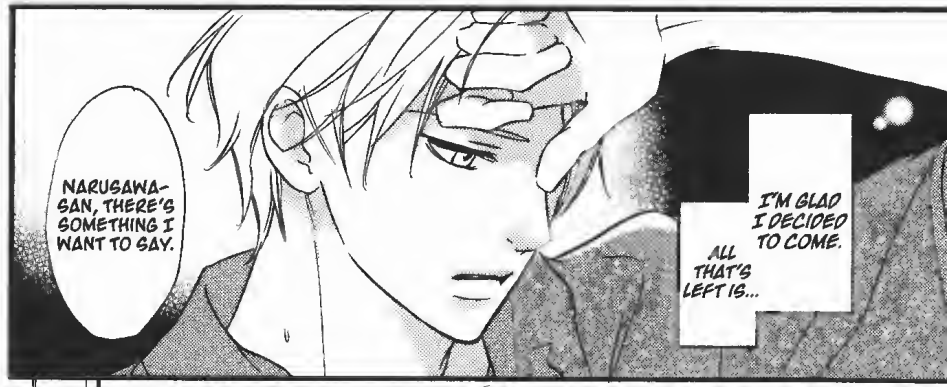

STRAIGHT DOWN THIS ROAD IS NARUSAWA-SAN'S PLACE.
YOU SHOULD BE TELLING ALL THIS TO HIM.

HELLO!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED...
...SOME HELP UNPACK-ING.
THAT OKAY?
YEAH, THAT'D BE A BIG HELP.
IT'S JUST A 20-MINUTE WALK TO NARUSAWA-SAN'S PLACE.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S WAY CLOSER THAN AMERICA...
...BEING APART FOR SO LONG HAS MADE ME HESITANT.
EVERY TIME I SWALLOW MY WORDS...
...OR STOP MYSELF FROM CHASING HIM...
...THOSE ARE SIDE-EFFECTS FROM HAVING TO WAIT SO LONG.

DID YOU EVER TRY LOOKING AT IT ANOTHER WAY?
UMM ...
...I TOOK SOME TIME TO REFLECT.
WELL, I THOUGHT IT OVER, AND...

BUT HE CHOSE A UNIVERSITY IN YOUR AREA, INSTEAD!
...TO ANY OTHER SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY! TOKYO, HOKKAIDO...
THINK ABOUT IT, HE COULD HAVE TRANSFERRED...
AND IT WASN'T JUST BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU WOULD.
OR BECAUSE YOU PROMISED.
...THAT I JUST ASSUMED THAT YOU'D COME BACK.
I REALIZE NOW...

GOOD, HE DOESN'T SEEM UPSET.
THESE YOU CAN TAKE OUT.
I'M GOING TO BE BRINGING THOSE TO MY OFFICE SOON, SO PUT THOSE IN BOXES.
MAN, YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF BOOKS.


NARUSAWA-SAN, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS...
I'M GLAD I DECIDED TO COME.

...I'M SORRY.
ABOUT YESTERDAY'S LUNCH...
YEAH?
WAIT, WASN'T I SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING?

I'M SORRY.
Hic
Shff..
WOW, JUST LOOK AT ALL THE STARS!
YOU CAN KEEP THINKING THAT.
NARU-SAWA-SAN?
IT'S TRUE. I DID COME HERE BECAUSE OF YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU'D COME BACK...
...BECAUSE I WAS HERE.

HM?
WHOA.
THAT'S THE SHINI-CHIRO SMELL I KNOW.
THIS IS WHAT A JAPANESE SUMMER IS ALL ABOUT.
THE SMELL IN THE AIR, THE BREEZE, THE SOUNDS...
NARU-SAWA-SAN...
...CAN I STAY THE NIGHT?
SURE.
Phew.
GOOD.
SHINICHIRO.

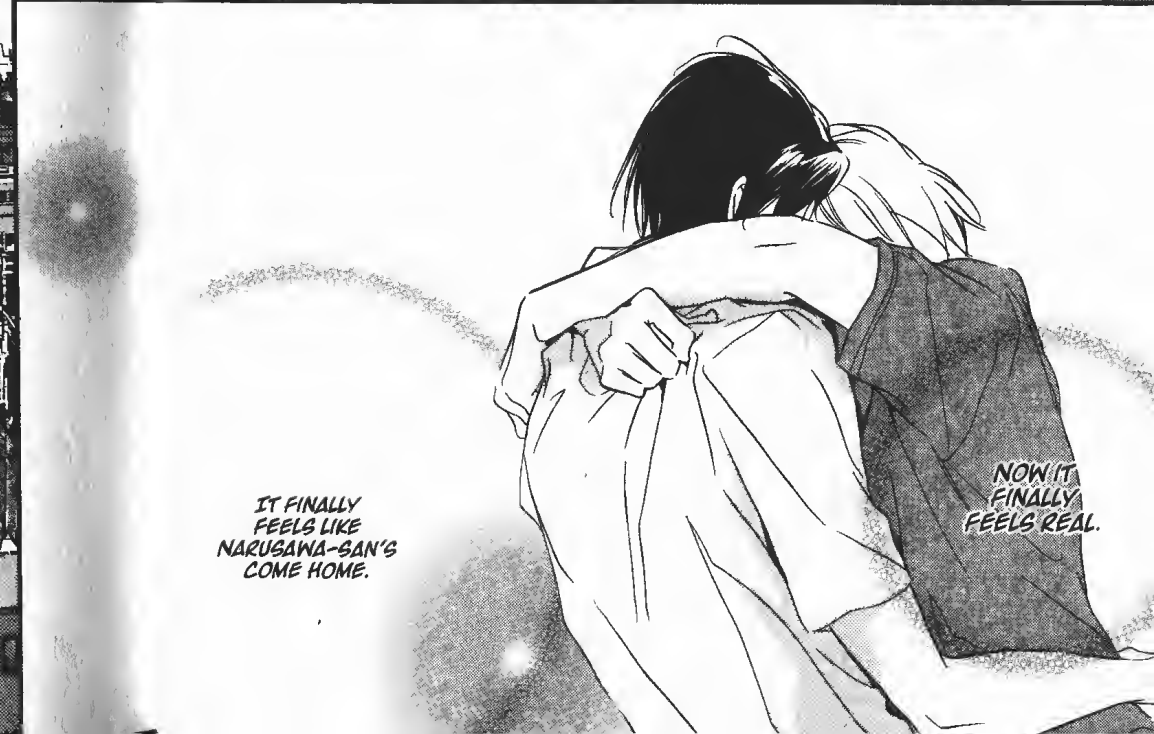
EVEN IF HIS ANSWER WAS PUT ON HOLD FOR THREE YEARS...
...I JUST COULDN'T IMAGINE ANY OTHER OPTION.
NARUSAWA-SAN!
BECAUSE HIS EYES TELL ME SO MUCH.

SEE?
NARU-SAWA-SAN'S...
...EYES AND HANDS...
... AND LIPS ...
...SPEAK VOLUMES TO ME EVERY TIME I SEE HIM.
...FEEL LIKE I'M HOME.
I FINALLY ...
OR THAT HE'D DO IT BECAUSE OF ME?
HOW COULD HE EXPECT ME NOT TO ASSUME...
...THAT HE'D COME BACK?

Ack!
FAIL
I fell asleep?
ACTUALLY, FAR FROM IT.
THEN, ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER AND WE CONSUMMATED OUR LOVE.
Hm?
The two fell asleep from exhaustion.

And this was finally supposed to be our chance!
WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT FROM NOW ON.
OH, WELL.
Heh heh.

JUST SAY YOU WON'T LEAVE—
BECAUSE WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER FROM NOW ON, RIGHT?
I DON'T HAVE TO WAIT ANY LONGER, RIGHT?

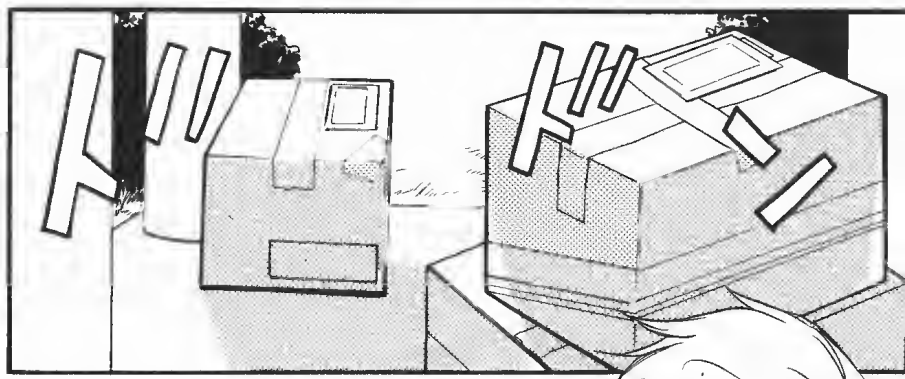

IT FINALLY FEELS LIKE NARUSAWA-SAN'S COME HOME.
NOW IT FINALLY FEELS REAL.

MORNING.
NARUSAWA-SAN, MORE PACKAGES CAME FOR YOU.
DO YOU WANT ME TO MOVE THESE TO YOUR ROOM?
OH, THAT STUFF GOES UP-STAIRS.
IT'S NOT MINE.
UP-STAIRS?
BUT I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T USE THE SECOND FLOOR.

IT'S TOO EARLY FOR THIS.
COM-ING!
JUST NEED YOUR SIGNATURE, THANK YOU!

DING DONG
Hee hee hee...
DING DONG
...NARUSAWA-SAN!
PACK-AGE FOR A ...

I NEVER HEARD ABOUT THIS!
THAT'S RIGHT. LIFE NEVER GOES THE WAY YOU WANT IT TO.
WITH LOVE ALWAYS COMES HURT.
OH, DIDN'T I MENTION IT?
I'M RENTING OUT THE UPSTAIRS ROOM.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THAT REMINDS ME, I SHOULD REALLY CLEAN IT UP.
WHAT?!
RENTING IT OUT?!
TO WHO?!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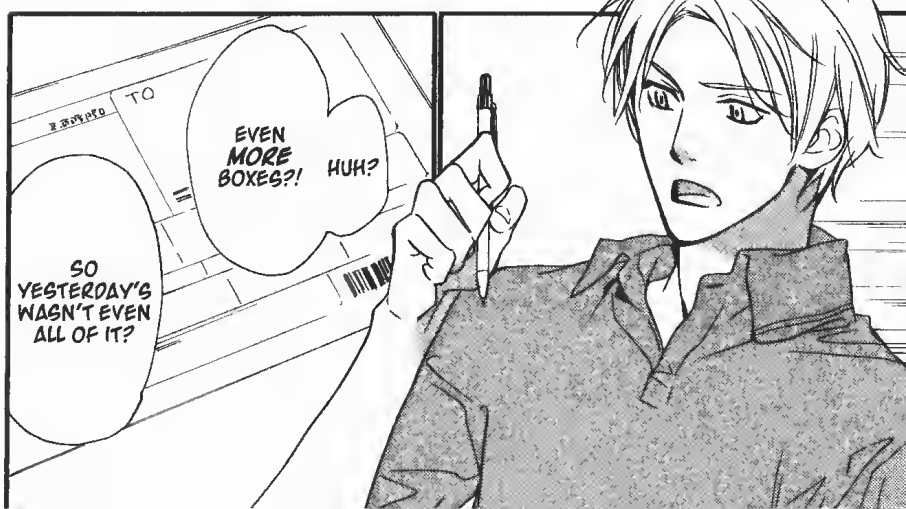
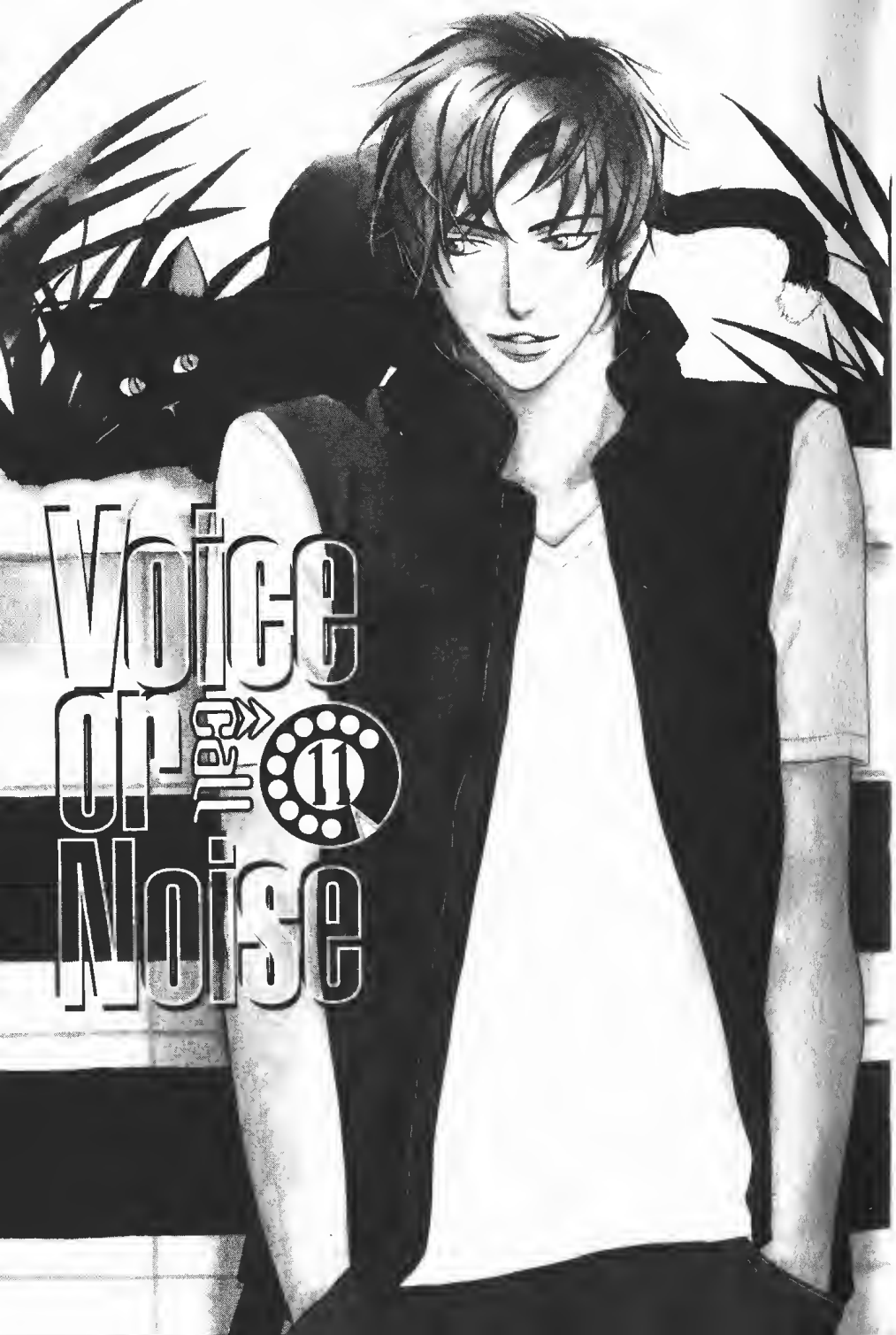
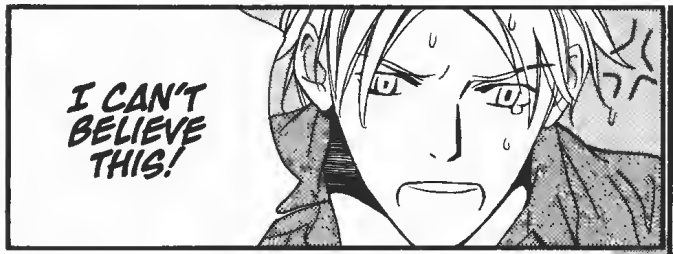
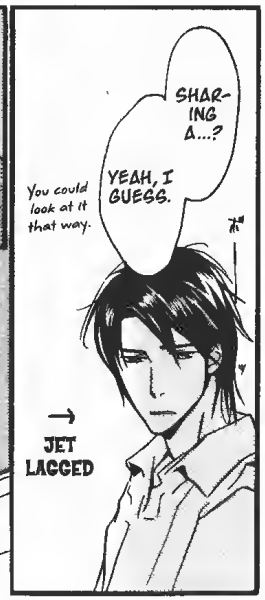

EVEN MORE BOXES?!
HUH?
SO YESTERDAY'S WASN'T EVEN ALL OF IT?


Voice or Noise
call 11

※Drama-tization
I ♥ NY
I'M RENTING IT OUT TO THE SON OF THE PROFESSOR WHO WATCHED OUT FOR ME OVER IN NEW YORK.
HE'LL BE TRANSFERRING HERE FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR, COME SEPTEMBER.
I THINK HE'S IN HIS SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.
※Drama-tization
Tee hee heel
LIKE THIS?
...WITH A HIGH SCHOOL-ER?!
SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE SHARING A ROOF...


I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!


SHAR-ING A...?
YEAH, I GUESS.
You could look at it that way.
→ JET LAGGED

AND THAT'S HOW MY YEAR...
...OF TROUBLES BEGAN.
After I waited so long for this, I thought it'd finally go some-where!

call 10 END

NARUSAWA-SAN, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
WOULD YOU PLEASE RENT ME ONE OF THE ROOMS IN THIS APARTMENT COMPLEX?
I PROMISE I'LL PAY RENT!
IN OTHER WORDS, LETTING ME STAY HERE TOO.
...THIS WAS THE ONLY IDEA I COULD COME UP WITH.
UNABLE TO BEAR THE THOUGHT THAT NARUSAWA-SAN WOULD BE SHARING THIS APARTMENT WITH SOME-ONE ELSE...

Yamimaru Enjin Presents

Voice or Noise

THE FIRST FLOOR'S GOT PLENTY OF SPACE, THOUGH.
BUT...
IT'S DIFFERENT THAN LIVING WITH YOUR PARENTS.
WELL, ONE ROOM'S TOO SMALL, DON'T YOU THINK?
It's only 6 tatami mats big.
THE 1K-SIZED ONES? BOTH OF THEM?!
FOR A HIGH SCHOOLER, THAT'S LUXURIOUS!
My room's only 6 mats big.
THAT'S NOT SMALL AT ALL!
MAYBE I COULD CLEAR ONE OF THE STORAGE ROOMS.
IN THAT CASE ...
YOU'LL ALSO HAVE TO RE-PLASTER THE CEILING BECAUSE IT LEAKS.
YEAH, I COULD.
CAN YOU REALLY HANDLE THAT?
You said your room's a jungle.
DOES HE NOT WANT TO RENT OUT A ROOM TO ME?
WHY IS HE ALWAYS REFUSING ME?
DAMMIT, I DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER THE OPTION THAT THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY ROOM.
Hmph!
AND HE'LL BE RENTING OUT ONE OF THE TWO REMAINING ROOMS TO THAT EXCHANGE STUDENT.
TWO OF THEM ARE CURRENTLY BEING USED FOR STORAGE.
THE APARTMENT THAT NARUSAWA-SAN OWNS HAS FOUR ROOMS ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
2F
1F
...YOU WANT TO LIVE ON YOUR OWN?
IS THIS BECAUSE ...
YES!
I'M IN COLLEGE, SO I WANT TO BE MORE, UH, INDEPENDENT!
NOW IT JUST BOILS DOWN TO WHAT NARUSAWA-SAN SAYS ABOUT IT.
I'VE DONE ALL MY RESEARCH.
HMM...
SEE, I WAS PLANNING ON GIVING BOTH OF THEM TO THE STUDENT WHO'S COMING.
BUT THERE'S NO MORE ROOM.
WHAT ABOUT ONE OF THE OPEN ROOMS UPSTAIRS?
MY PARENTS ALREADY SAID IT'S OKAY. I COULD MOVE IN TOMORROW!
BUT I'VE COME PREPARED!
I DUNNO ...
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HE'S GOING TO SAY.
WHAT?!

LIVING TOGETHER?
L-L-L-L--
HON-ESTLY, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE THE ONE TO SUGGEST IT.
LIVING TOGETHER...
...IN THE SAME ROOM AS NARUSAWA-SAN?
B-B-B-B-B-BUT THAT MEANS--
SHARE A ROOM? HERE? NOT THE SECOND FLOOR?
THAT WE'D BE LIVING TOGETHER.
AND FOR THAT MATTER, WHY ARE YOU SITTING SO FAR AWAY?
WELL, NOT EXACTLY.
IT MAKES THINGS EASIER THAN US GOING TO THE SAME SCHOOL, DOESN'T IT?
AND JUST WHY'S THAT?
WELL... CUZ...

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?
HUH? THE FIRST FLOOR?
BUT YOU ALREADY USE ALL THE ROOMS HERE.
YUP.
YEAH, THAT'S CUZ IT'S BIG.
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M SAYING, WOULD YOU SHARE A ROOM WITH ME?

Mm...
Yikes!
IT CALMS ME DOWN.
NARU-SAWA-SAN!
THIS IS, UH, PRETTY EMBAR-RASSING.
UM ...
...BUT WHAT IF HE STARTS GETTING TURNED ON?
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, TOO.
IT'S TOUCHING LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL...
THIS POSITION ALWAYS MAKES ME THINK...
...ABOUT WHAT'S UNDER MY BUTT.
Is he really okay?
Heh.
IT FEELS GOOD, DOESN'T IT?
HEY NOW.
QUIT SQUIRM-ING.

SITTING ON LAP
SO WHAT?
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
SHINI-CHIRO.
It's still light out! You're way too forward!
I HAVEN'T HELD YOU IN MY LAP ONCE SINCE I GOT BACK.
LET ME DO IT.
NARUSAWA-SAN!

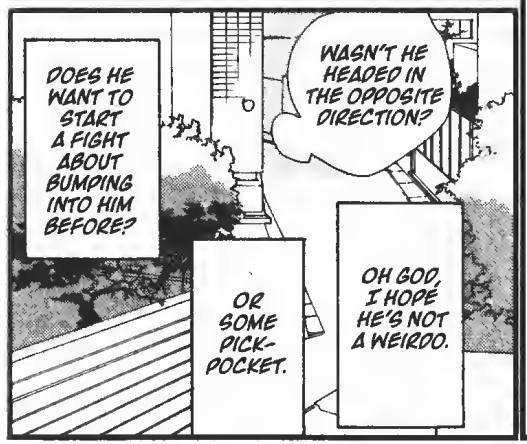
Double-Traumatized
AM I REALLY ...
...THAT PATHETIC?
YES.
OF COURSE NARUNARU WOULD BE TURNED OFF BY THAT.
YOU'RE TOO CLINGY.
And in the middle of the day
WHILE NARU-NARU WAS COOL AND COMPOSED, YOU WERE GETTING ALL EXCITED ON YOUR OWN.
IT'S PATHETIC!
Even if we both like each other, why do I still stress myself out like this?!
Waaah!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO BE "NATURAL" ANYMORE!
I CAN'T!
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST PLAYED THIS NATURALLY LIKE BEFORE.
HE STILL LACKS TRAINING.
He should actually be as touchy-feely as he wants
THIS'LL BE FUN.
DEMON
Heh!
Sigh...
WHEN CAN NARUSAWA-SAN AND I EVER CONSUMMATE OUR LOVE IN PEACE?
DING DONG
DING DONG
PLEASE TAKE YOUR CHECK-BOOK.
I'M HUNGRY.
SQUISH
N-NARU-SAWA-SAN!
You-know-what
LOOK ...
...WAS NARUNARU'S YOU-KNOW-WHAT HARD?
GUESS I'LL MAKE LUNCH.
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, GETTING IN THE WAY?!
KID, I JUST SAVED YOUR ASS.
GETTING IN THE WAY?
HOW?!
It was just getting to the good part!
ACHT!!
Totally soft the whole time
Ugh...
IT WAS... SOFT.
AND YET YOU WERE HORNY AS HELL, SHIN-CHAN.
SEE?
I could tell from the 'squish.' That and the pheromones.

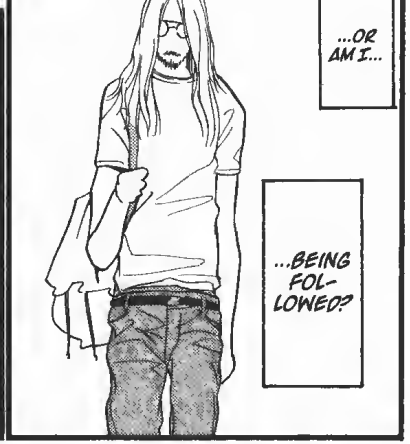
FROM NOW ON...
...I'LL START TREATING YOU LIKE AN ADULT.
BUT...
...YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO STRICT BEFORE.
I'm surprised.
IS THAT SO WRONG?
A STUDENT'S PRIMARY JOB IS TO STUDY.
TOO MANY TIMES A KID WILL FOCUS TOO MUCH ON WORK AND THEN FLUNK OUT OF SCHOOL.
BUT THEN WON'T IT FEEL LIKE I'M TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOU FINANCIALLY?
HE'S FINALLY...
I'M HAPPY, BUT...
...GOING TO START TREATING ME LIKE AN ADULT.
He just likes to spoil you.
...THAT JUST ADDS MORE PRESSURE.
BETTER FIND MORE WORK...
BUT IT ALSO FEELS LIKE HE'S TELLING ME TO GO TO SCHOOL AND EARN A LIVING.

...MY SAVINGS.
YEAH.
THE BIGGER PROBLEM IS...
BUT WE'RE LIVING TOGETHER, SO THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
Hmm...
I'D BETTER ASK FOR MORE HOURS AT WORK.
...I WAS SURPRISED BY HIS RESPONSE.
WHEN I TALKED TO NARUSAWA-SAN ABOUT THIS...
WITH MY ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME BEING MY PART-TIME JOB...
I CURRENTLY HAVE XXXX YEN IN MY BANK ACCOUNT.
My parents only promised to pay my school tuition.
HOW MUCH DOES THAT COME OUT TO A MONTH?
AND LET'S NOT FORGET...
...RENT, UTILITIES, GROCERIES, ENTERTAINMENT, MY CELL PHONE BILL...
HUH?
I DON'T MIND COVERING THE OTHER EXPENSES.
AS LONG AS YOU CLEAN UP AROUND THE HOUSE IN RETURN.
REALLY? IS THAT ALL?

ミス
UPH!
Ow, I bumped my nose!
SORRY, MISTER.
BEEP
HEY, NARUSAWA-SAN?
I WAS ON MY WAY TO YOUR APART-MENT.
ARE YOU HEADED HOME SOON?
SORRY, NO CAN DO.
WE HAD A POWER OUTAGE, SO ALL THE COMPUTERS ARE DOWN.
NOT SURE HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE TO REBOOT.
All my data... Lost!
How would this happen without any warning?
I'LL BE HOME AS SOON AS I CAN, BUT YOU CAN GO IN WITHOUT ME.
OKAY, GOT IT.
MIGHT AS WELL DO IT MYSELF.
SHOOT.
I WAS HOPING TO ASK HIM ABOUT WHEN I COULD MOVE IN.
.....
IS IT JUST MY IMAGI-NATION...
Yeesh!
SOME-THING ABOUT THAT GUY'S CREEPY.
Super.
And who walks around town dressed like that?
のしっ
のしっ
ULP!
UM...
EXCUSE ME.
SORRY.
ぬっ

HM?
THIS IS...
HUH?
I... WANT GO...
...HERE.
HUH?! WHAT?!


DOES HE WANT TO START A FIGHT ABOUT BUMPING INTO HIM BEFORE?
WASN'T HE HEADED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION?
OR SOME PICK-POCKET.
OH GOD, I HOPE HE'S NOT A WEIRDO.


...OR AM I...
...BEING FOL-LOWED?

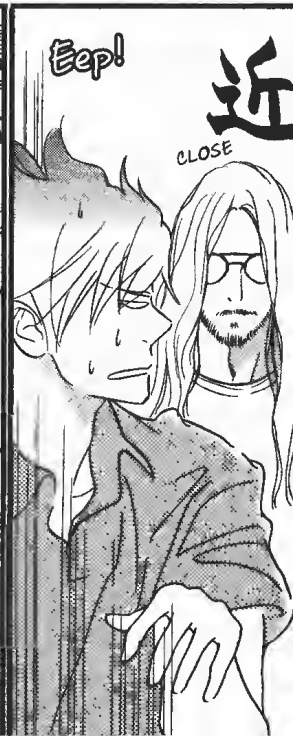
SO CUUUUTE!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, SHIN-CHAN?
AND WHO'S THE HIPPIE?
A MAP OF THE NEIGH-BORHOOD?
EEEK!
Hm-hm.
Kitty punch!
KNOCK IT OFF, ACHT!
YOU TRYIN' TO PICK UP MY FRIEND?
WANNA PIECE OF ME?
C'mon!

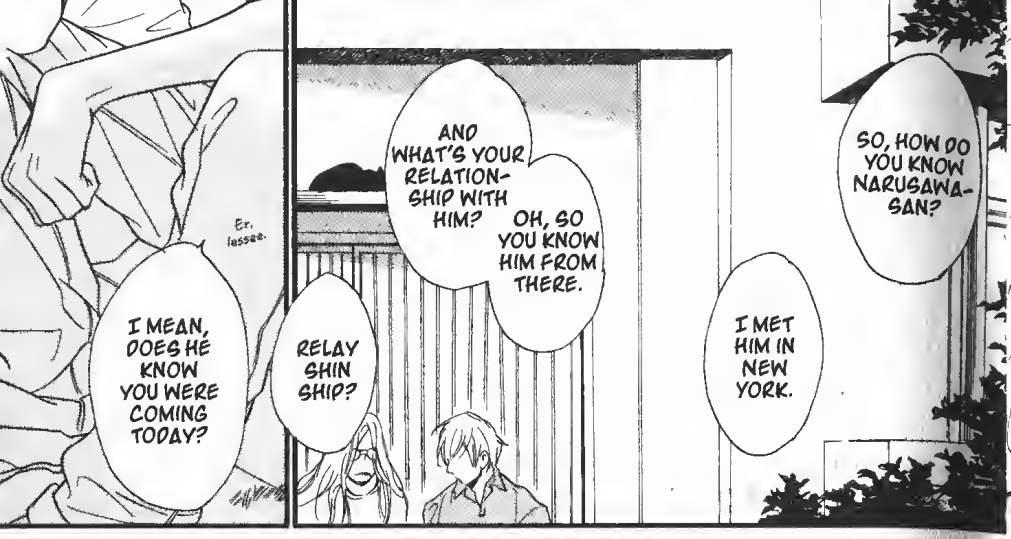
PEEK PEEK

I'm not sure.
BETTER GAIN SOME DISTANCE.

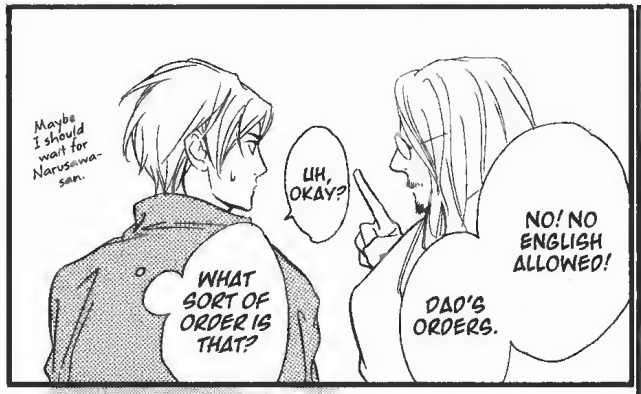
SAY SOME-THING!

EXCUSE ME, THIS IS A PRIVATE ROAD UP AHEAD.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

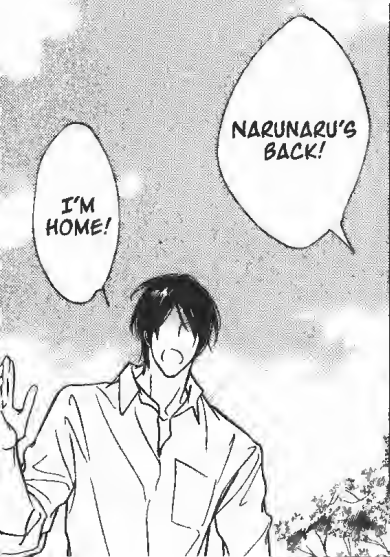

Eep!
CLOSE


I MEAN, DOES HE KNOW YOU WERE COMING TODAY?
Er, lessee.
RELAY SHIN SHIP?
AND WHAT'S YOUR RELATION-SHIP WITH HIM?
OH, SO YOU KNOW HIM FROM THERE.
I MET HIM IN NEW YORK.
SO, HOW DO YOU KNOW NARUSAWA-SAN?

Gyaaaaaah!
FSHT FSHT
FSHT
PLIK


Maybe I should wait for Narusawa-san.
UH, OKAY?
NO! NO ENGLISH ALLOWED!
WHAT SORT OF ORDER IS THAT?
DAD'S ORDERS.

YES, I WROTE HIM.
YOU TOLD HIM WHEN YOU'D BE ARRIVING?
I NEVER HEARD ABOUT HAVING A VISITOR.
ARRIV-ING?
MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER IF WE SPOKE IN ENGLISH.
Though I'm not very good at it.


I'M HOME!
NARUNARU'S BACK!

BLOODIED
AND I LIKE CATS.
MY NAME IS ISADORE LIEBER-MAN.
I CAME TO MEET NARU-SAWA-SAN.
THAT WHY HE HUGGED ACHT?
AND HE'S A GUEST WHO CAME TO VISIT NARUSAWA-SAN FOR SOME REASON.
TURNS OUT THIS WEIRDO IS A CAT FANATIC.

SORRY.
I JUST WANTED TO PET IT MORE.
ER, ANY-WAY...
WHOA

I'M OKAY.
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT. ARE YOU HURT?
DID I SCARE THE KITTY?

YEAH.
Who the hell are you?!
Hssss!
I'D SAY YOU DID.

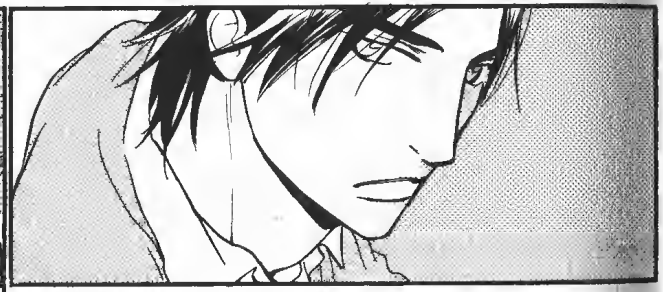
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
What?
.....
...IS ONLY IN HIGH SCHOOL?!
THIS CREEPY-LOOKING HOBO GUY...

ACHT?
OH, NARU-NARU, IT WAS DREAD-FUL!
THERE'S A PERVERT IN OUR MIDST!
HE VIOLATED ME!
ビ
ミ
HE'S THE CULPRIT!
THE BEARDED HIPPIE!
Acht, that's just in poor taste
?
ARREST HIM!!
ARREST HIM FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT!
OH.
ISADORE, YOU'RE HERE!
WHY DION'T YOU TELL ME WE'D BE HAVING A VISITOR?
NARU-SAWA-SAN?
DION'T I TELL YOU WE'D BE HOUSING AN EXCHANGE STUDENT?
...AND HE'LL BE STUDYING ABROAD AT THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL.
THIS IS ISADORE LIEBERMAN...

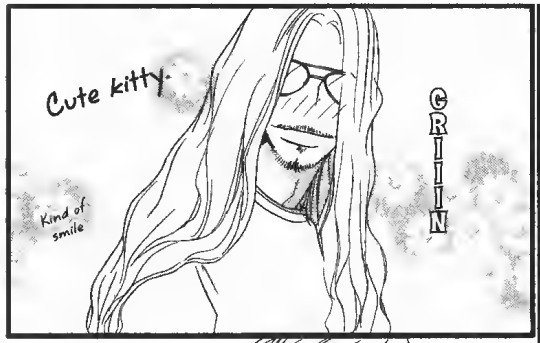
Voice or Noise

Bonus Chapter

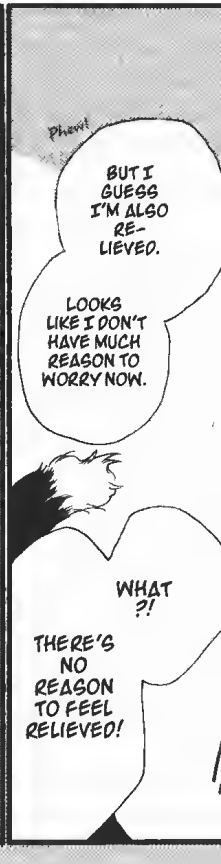
Memories



HANG IN THERE, SHIN-CHAN! HE'S STILL YOUNGER THAN YOU!
GOOD QUES-TION.
WHAT DO YOU GOTTA EAT TO GET THAT BIG?
IF THAT'S A HIGH SCHOOLER, THEN I WONDER WHAT ELSE AMERICA HAS TO OFFER.



FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO STEAL MY SOUL. - ACHT

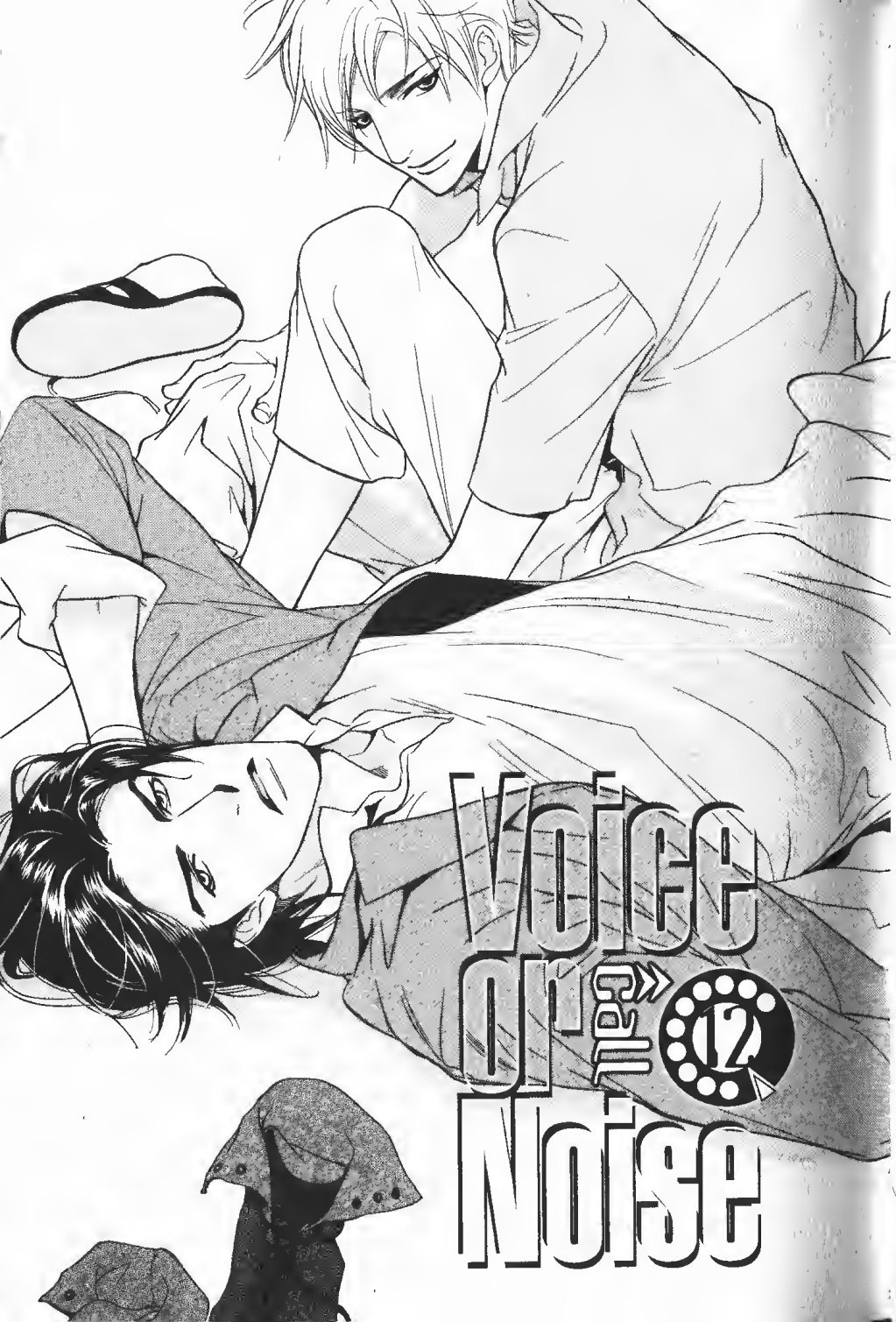


BUT HE REALLY LIKED YOU.
HUH? LIKED ME?
YEAH, I WAS.
GET OVER THERE.
THEY CALLED HIM "THE PERV."
BECAUSE OF THAT, I ENDED UP TAKING CARE OF HIM MYSELF.
YOU WERE ALWAYS HEFTING HIM AROUND.
He was really huge.
Short for Giant Rabbit Perv.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, I REMEMBER YOU HELPING ME TO FEED THE RABBITS.
REMEMBER THAT ONE RABBIT WE LOOKED AFTER?
YOU MEAN THE BIG WHITE ONE? HE WAS A HANDFUL!
HE'D ALWAYS STICK HIS HEAD UP THE GIRLS' SKIRTS.
HUGE
Eeek!
There was plenty of screaming when the girls came in.
I WAS WONDERING WHY WHEN YOU HAD DIFFERENT OUTIES.
AH, THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
AT FIRST, I REALLY DIDN'T LIKE YOU.
WHAT?!
I LOVE YOU, MISTER.
Like how to touch and carry them
YOU MAY HAVE LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE TREATING THEM ROUGH, BUT YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE DOING.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKED BY ALL SORTS OF ANIMALS.
HAPPY
I NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE.
No chance, kiddo. Don't even lay a finger on me.
THE RABBIT WAS ALWAYS TELLING ME TO LEARN FROM YOU.

HUH?
I MEAN, IT'S PRETTY AMAZING HE RECOGNIZED YOU INDIVIDUALLY.
WHEN IT CAME TO THE OTHER STAFF, ALL HE COULD TELL WAS WHETHER THEY WERE BOYS OR GIRLS.
I'm not even sure he recognized them all as humans
STRANGE HOBBIES YOU'VE GOT.
Poor thing
YOU REALLY WANTED TO HOLD THAT PERVERTED RABBIT BAO, HUH?
IT SOUNDS WRONG WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT!
Heh Heh.
IT WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THOSE "WE'RE SO CLOSE WE ALWAYS FIGHT" THINGS.
SAY WHAT?
...IT'S MORE SHOCKING THAT THE RABBIT WAS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU!
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY...

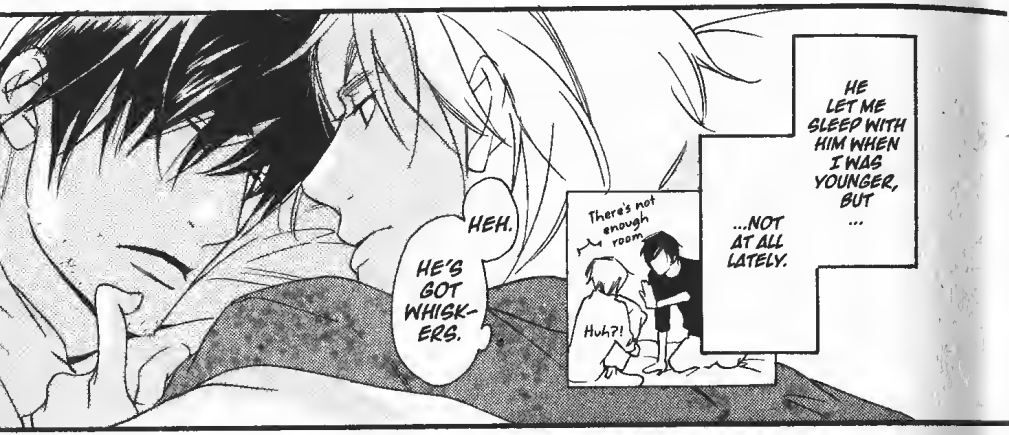
BUT I WAS NEVER ABLE TO HOLD HIM.
AND BEFORE LONG, I GRADUATED.
YOU COULD CALL THE RABBIT A PERV AND PICK HIM UP ALL YOU WANTED.
Careful now
BUT I NEEDED HELP FROM THE START.
I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MADE YOU SO SPECIAL.
You're doing it wrong!
More naturally!
I ALWAYS WONDERED WHY YOU CAME INTO THE PEN, WHEN YOU WEREN'T ONE OF THE KEEPERS, OR EVEN LIKED ANIMALS.
HEY, THAT REMINDS ME OF ANOTHER WEIRD MEMORY.
YOU WERE SO NERVOUS ABOUT TOUCHING THEM.
I WAS STUBBORN.
I WANTED THEM TO LIKE ME MORE THAN YOU.
I TRIED TO MIMIC WHAT YOU DID.

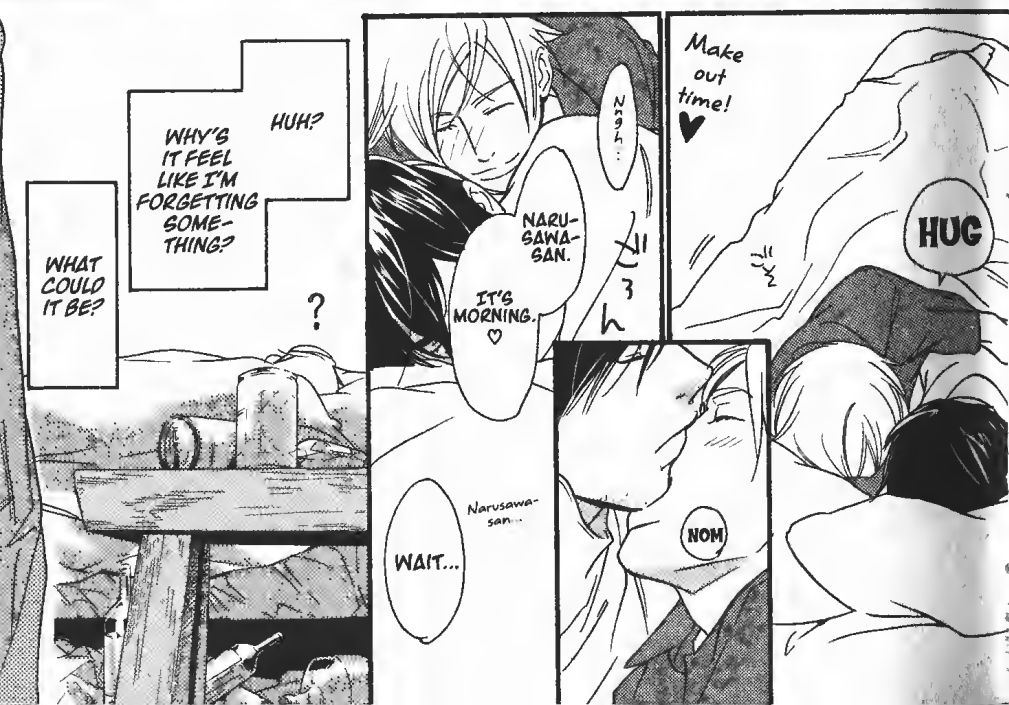
FROM WHAT I PICKED UP ON, THIS DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOUR AVERAGE MIDLIFE CRISIS SORT OF THING.
I DON'T APPRECIATE YOU TWO GETTING ALL INTIMATE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
Should I give you some privacy? Sheesh.
...WHY DON'T YOU TRY HOLDING ME INSTEAD?
HEY, IF YOU WANTED TO HOLD HIM SO BADLY...
WELL?
C'mon, c'mon! Do it!
SHUT UP.
BUT THIS MEMORY OF US FEEDING THE RABBITS TOGETHER IS WHEN I FIRST CONSIDERED US TO BE FRIENDS!
THERE WAS A TIME WHERE I HATED YOU FOR BEING ABLE TO TALK WITH ANIMALS.
That so?
HOLDING YOUR FRIEND OR NOT IS A SEPARATE MATTER. YOU'RE RIGHT.
FINE, ALL RIGHT.
I LOST TO A RABBIT?
SOB
NO, ALL YOUR MEMORIES SURROUND THE PERVERT RABBIT.
Sheesh.
HERE'S YOUR RABBIT SUBSTITUTE.
THIS IS TOTALLY WHAT OLD GUYS TALK ABOUT.
REMI-NISCING ABOUT THE PAST LIKE THIS MAKES US OLD FOGIES.
YOU'RE WRONG.
Take it.
WELL SORRY TO BUST YOUR BUBBLE, BUT NARUSAWA-SAN'S NOT OLD YET.
OH, YEAH?
THAT'S JUST WHAT I HATE ABOUT YOU.
SHEESH.
EXCUSE ME...

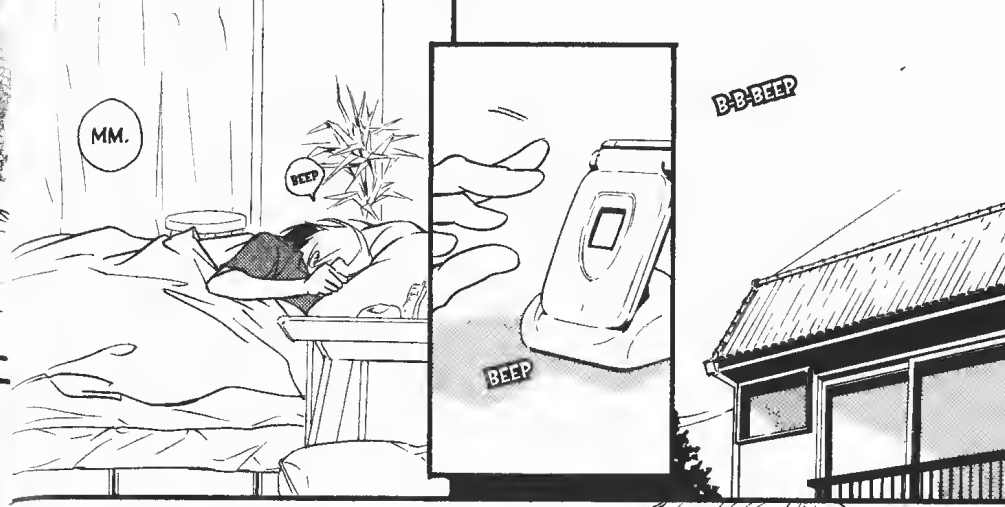

Voice or Noise
12

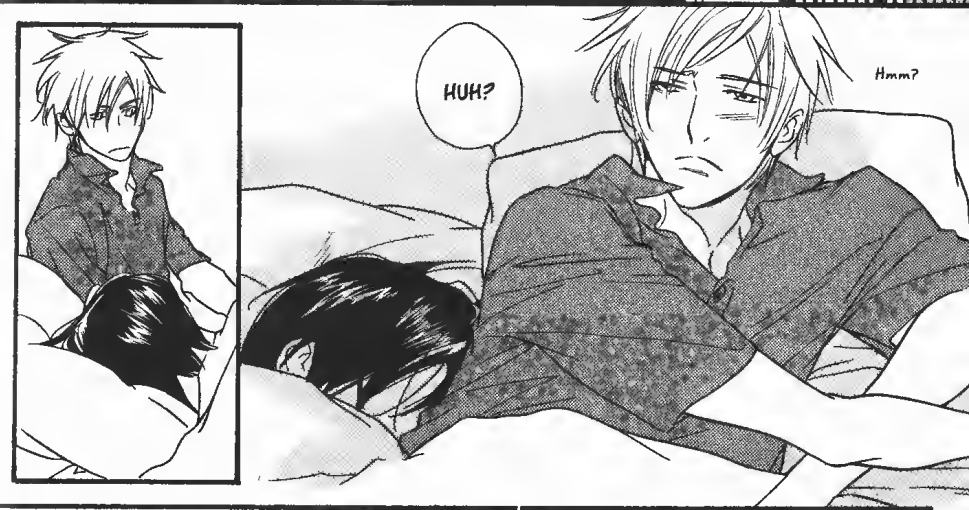
THERE, THERE.
AAW.
SHINI-CHIRO.
SO DOES THIS MEAN I CAN BE PERVERTED?
Instead of the rabbit?
EEK! STOP IT!
THAT RABBIT ONLY WENT FOR GIRLS.
WELL I ONLY GO FOR NARU-SAWAS.
BETTER KEEP HIM AWAY FROM RABBITS IN THE FUTURE.
...WAS BECAUSE HE NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO HOLD THAT RABBIT.
... THAT THE REASON NARUSAWA-SAN LIKED TO HUG SO MUCH ...
THAT'S WHEN THE EVER-SUSPICIOUS SHINICHIRO FIRST CONSIDERED ...
END

THIS FEELS LIKE THE FIRST TIME SINCE NARUSAWA-SAN GOT BACK FROM THE STATES.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE SLEPT TOGETHER ANYWAY?


HEH.
HE'S GOT WHISK-ERS.
There's not enough room.
Huh?!
...NOT AT ALL LATELY.
HE LET ME SLEEP WITH HIM WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, BUT ...


HUH?
WHY'S IT FEEL LIKE I'M FORGETTING SOME-THING?
WHAT COULD IT BE?
?
Nngh...
NARU-SAWA-SAN.
IT'S MORNING. ♡
Narusawa-san...
WAIT...
NOM
Make out time!
HUG


MM.
BEEP
BEEP
B-B-BEEP


HUH?
Hmm?

WHO CARES? MIGHT AS WELL GET MORE SHUTEYE.
?
HMM?
WHY IS HE SLEEPING NEXT TO ME?
NARUSAWA-SAN?
What the --?

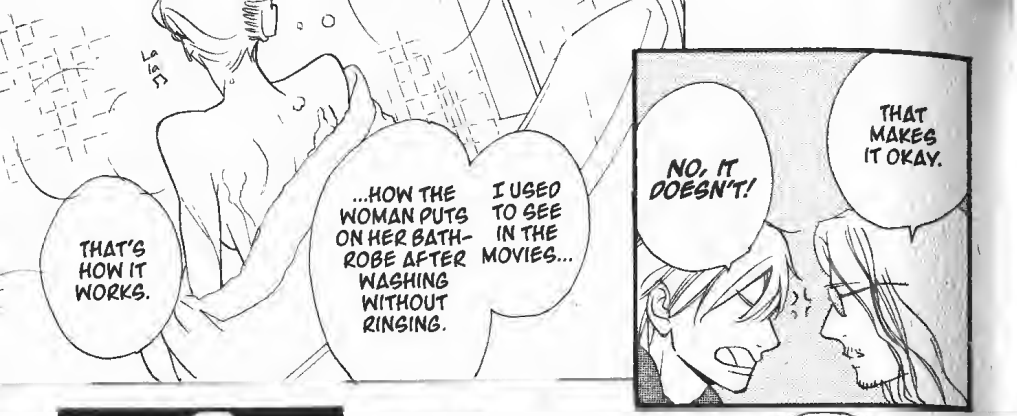
YOU CAN'T GO OUT IN PUBLIC IN YOUR UNDIES!
NOOO!
Still sleepy
WAIT, WHY IS NARUSAWA-SAN ONLY WEARING BOXERS?!
THAT'S RIGHT! THIS HAIRY CREEP IS THE HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE STUDENT.
WHO WANTS BREAK-FAST?
MAN, I'M HUNGRY.
HE'LL BE LIVING HERE AS A HOUSE-MATE...
...AND JUST ARRIVED YESTER-DAY.
Wh-wh-wh--
Aaaah!
Where are my pants?!
Hic
Er...
YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY ONE TO TALK.
Up!

NARU-SAWA-SAN!
GET UP!
Excuse me...
ARE YOU UP YET?
GEH!
Ngh
THE CREEP'S BACK!
HE'S BACK!
NARU--UH?
AND THEN YOU WENT OVERBOARD.
YEAH. YOU INSISTED WE DRINK TO ISADORE'S ARRIVAL.
IS TRUE.
YOU'RE A TERRIBLE DRINKER.
I DON'T REMEM-BER.
WHAT?! ME?!
STUNNED
YOU DID, IDIOT.
WHO MADE THIS MESS?!
Ugh, my head's killing me.

ばん
TIME TO EAT!
WHAT'S WRONG, SHINICHIRO? YOU'RE NOT HUNGRY?
I'M EATING, I'M EATING!
Aah.
YOU'RE SO SMALL BECAUSE YOU DON'T EAT.
Nngh.
WHAT?!
COOL IT.
I HAPPEN TO BE 174 CM.
That's not short!
Bfft!
DON'T SAY THAT.
YOU HAVE A CUTE WEE-WEE.
HUH? WHAT?
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
GRR!
CUT IT OUT!
THE ELEPHANT DANCE.
...I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE DRINKING SOCIALLY.
Ahem!
SHINICHIRO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE STUDYING IN SCHOOL, BUT...
Gimme a break! My eyes... They burn!
Woo! The elephant waves his trunk!
NOW TO WELCOME ALL THE NEW STUDENTS!
Freshman Welcome Party
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
What. wee-wee?
Dying slowly
I always hated that party trick when other people would do it. Don't tell me I joined the club...

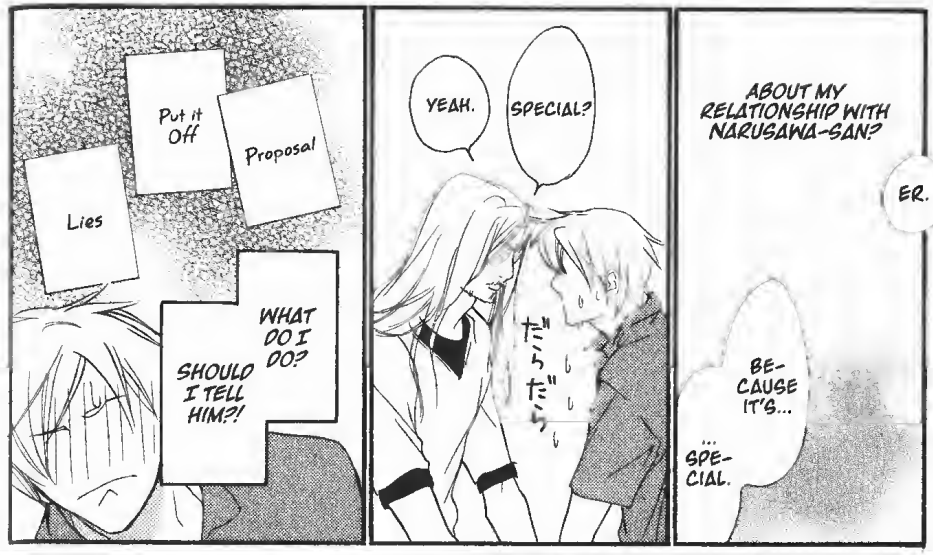
SO PLEASE WATCH HIM FOR TODAY, WOULD YOU?
WHAT?! NO FAIR!
Him
SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT TO GET TO SCHOOL TODAY.
WHAT?! BUT IT'S SUNDAY!
THE PC PROBLEM ISN'T SETTLED YET.
SO, WHAT'S TODAY'S GAME PLAN?
I WAS HOPING WE COULD TALK ABOUT MOVING IN.
Desperately changing the subject
SHINI-CHIRO.
Ugh.
What's he mean, I'm small?!
Heh.
YOU SILLY.
NARU-SAWA-SAN!
I'M NOT SMALL!
MORE JAM, PLEASE.
HERE.
Hey!
Don't put on so much
YES, YES.
YOU'RE MOVING?
OH, SO YOU OVER-HEARD?
HM?
UH, SHINI-CHIRO?
WHAT?
JUST THINKING HOW YOU TWO ARE CLOSE.
YOU WERE EVEN SLEEPING TO-GETHER THIS MORNING.
UH...
OOH.
YEAH.
AND DON'T STRIP IN FRONT OF ANYONE BUT ME FROM NOW ON.
O-OKAY.
DO YOU REMEM-BER LAST NIGHT?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU DRANK WAY TOO MUCH.
NOT MUCH.
YOU'RE FORBIDDEN FROM DRINKING IN PUBLIC, UNDER-STAND?
FINE.

SLEEP WITH YOU?!
SO WILL YOU SLEEP WITH ME, TOO?
Like this morning?
I GUESS THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
ER, WELL... SURE.
HUH?
YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS?
BE-CAUSE WE'RE LIVING TOGETH-ER...
...WILL WE BE CLOSE?
I CAN'T DO THAT.
UH...
UH-OH.
WHY NOT?
しょぼん
I MEAN ...
BECAUSE.
I CAN'T HIDE THE TRUTH IF WE'RE LIVING TOGETHER.
BUT SHOULD I REALLY TELL HIM?
YOU MEAN, LIKE A ROOM-MATE?
HOUSE-MATE?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT A "HOUSE-MATE" IS?
YEAH, I'M GOING TO BE MOVING...
...INTO THIS APART-MENT.
WHAT IS IT?
I GUESS SO.
ROOM-MATES ...
...ARE LIKE FRIENDS.
HUH?
WILL YOU BE CLOSE WITH ME, TOO?
NARUSAWA-SAN AND SHINICHIRO ARE VERY CLOSE.


THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.
...HOW THE WOMAN PUTS ON HER BATHROBE AFTER WASHING WITHOUT RINSING.
I USED TO SEE IN THE MOVIES...
NO, IT DOESN'T!
THAT MAKES IT OKAY.

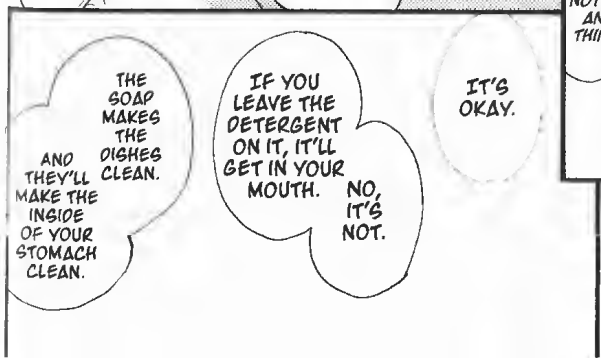
Mostly Culture Clash
NEVER MIND.
HUH
ANY PLANS FOR TODAY?
PLEASE JUST RINSE THEM.
Something the Japanese Will Never Understand
IT'S A WASTE TO RINSE OFF THE SOAP.

OH, YOU MEAN ACHT?
DON'T WE HAVE TO FEED HIM?
WHERE'S THE CAT FROM YESTERDAY?
HELLO?
ACHT


Lies
Put it Off
Proposal
SHOULD I TELL HIM?!
WHAT DO I DO?
YEAH.
SPECIAL?
ABOUT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH NARUSAWA-SAN?
ER.
BE-CAUSE IT'S...
...SPE-CIAL.

YOU HAVE TO WASH OFF THE SOAP SUDS.
HEY, WAIT.
BUT THIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM.

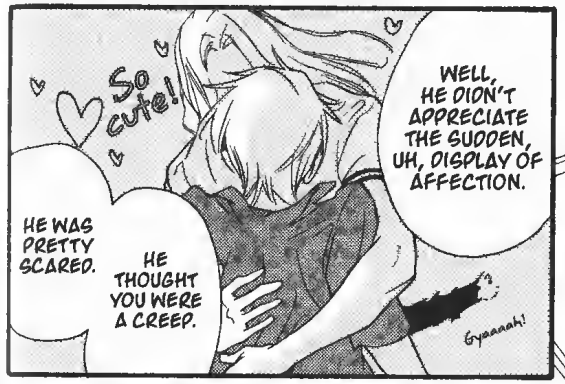
SEE, IT'S STILL COVERED IN SOAP SUDS.
SUDS?

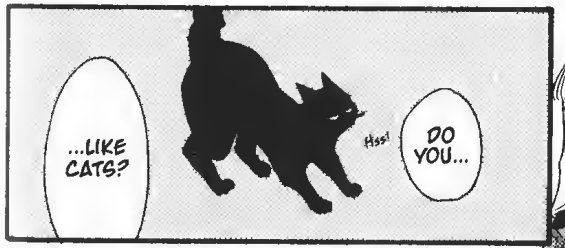

THE SOAP MAKES THE DISHES CLEAN.
AND THEY'LL MAKE THE INSIDE OF YOUR STOMACH CLEAN.
IF YOU LEAVE THE DETERGENT ON IT, IT'LL GET IN YOUR MOUTH.
NO, IT'S NOT.
IT'S OKAY.

THAT WAS A SPECIAL CASE, BECAUSE I'D BEEN DRINKING.
BETTER PUT IT OFF FOR NOW.
I BETTER NOT SAY ANY-THING...
...BEFORE CONFIRM-ING WITH NARUSAWA-SAN.
I mean...

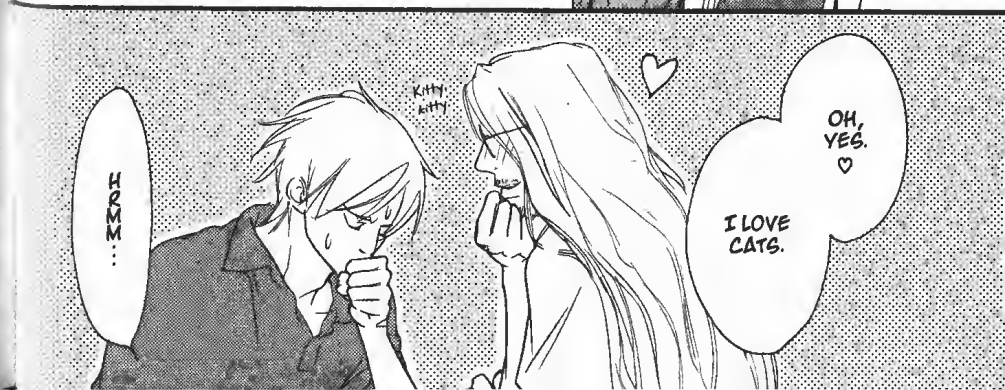
Sniffle
NARUSAWA-SAN TOLD ME HE HAD A NICE BLACK CAT.
AND I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING IT.
I JUST WANTED TO PET HIM.
I especially like black kitties.
I COULDN'T HAVE PETS.
NO. MY DAD HATES ANIMALS.
Get rid of it.
HAVE YOU EVER OWNED ONE BEFORE?
I WANT TO, BUT THEY ALWAYS RUN AWAY.
NO.
HAVE YOU EVER PET ONE?
UH-HUH.
Oh, no!
Mrow?
WHAT DO YOU DO?
...AND YOU SEE A CAT.
HERE, LET'S IMAGINE YOU'RE WALKING ALONG THE ROAD...
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH THEM.
LIKE THEIR MOODS.
MOOD?
IMAGINE YOU SEE A CAT.

Oh.
oh.
.....
SCARED HIM?
CUZ YOU SCARED HIM SO MUCH YESTERDAY.
WHY NOT?
I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE COMING OUT FOR A WHILE.


So cute!
HE WAS PRETTY SCARED.
HE THOUGHT YOU WERE A CREEP.
WELL, HE DIDN'T APPRECIATE THE SUDDEN, UH, DISPLAY OF AFFECTION.
Gyaaaah!


...LIKE CATS?
Hiss!
DO YOU...

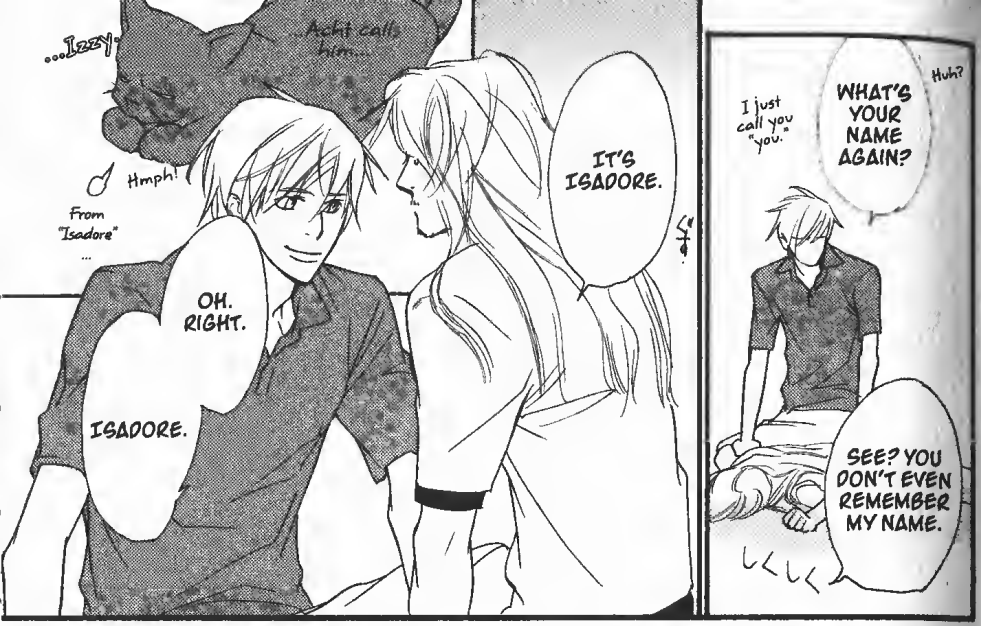
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE HIM.
HMM.


HRMM...
Kitty kitty
OH, YES. ♡
I LOVE CATS.

COULD WE TRY TAKING OFF YOUR SUNGLASSES?
OH, NO!
?
...THAT LOOK OF YOURS IS WAY SUSPICIOUS TO BEGIN WITH.
HEY!
KITTY! ♡
HELLO?
?
KITTY, KITTY, KITTY!
KNOCK IT OFF!
NO!
DON'T LOOK!
DON'T!
...PROMISE YOU WON'T LAUGH?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OR YOU'LL LAUGH!
YOU MUSTN'T LOOK!
Huh?!
WELL...
I WON'T LAUGH.
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR EYES?
I WON'T LAUGH, JUST SHOW ME!
SHEESH.
YOU DON'T ATTACK THEM! GOT IT?
YOU DON'T JUMP FOR THEM.
FIRST OFF, YOU DON'T GRAB THEM LIKE THAT.
AND ANYWAY...
...OKAY.
SEE? THAT ISN'T HOW YOU ACT!

Creep with Manga Girl Eyes
THEY LOOK NORMAL! TOTALLY NORMAL!
NO WAY!
EVERY-ONE LAUGHS WHEN THEY SEE.
Must not look
For the most part
BUT IT'S NOTHING STRANGE.
I MEAN, I GUESS THEY'RE A LITTLE SURPRISING.
SHINI-CHIRO, YOU'RE SO NICE.
Oh
HE'S TURNING OUT TO BE MORE AND MORE PITIFUL.
ANYWAY, BACK TO BEFORE.
TRY HOLDING ME AS IF I WERE A CAT.
GENTLY NOW.
YEAH, LIKE THIS.
HOLDING YOU?
I SAID GENTLY!
GENTLE.
RIGHT. GOOD.
JUST LIKE THAT.
YOU WON'T RUN AWAY?
NO, I WON'T.
AND THEY SPARKLE.
...HE HAS REALLY BIG EYES.
WHOA, SEEING HIM UP-CLOSE LIKE THIS...
I THINK THEY'RE ACTUALLY GREEN. WOW...
AND THAT FLOWING BLOND HAIR, SO SOFT...
Huh?!
AND BE GENTLE.
YOU FIRST HAVE TO ASSUME THAT THEY WON'T RUN AWAY.
THEY RUN AWAY BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT BEING GENTLE.
BUT IF I DO IT TOO GENTLY, THEY'LL RUN AWAY.
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?!

NOW GET OFF OF ME.
...CATS DON'T LIKE YOU!
THIS IS WHY...
HUH?
A--
ACHT!
Hsss!
ACHT, THAT'S ENOUGH!
TRYING TO MAKE A MOVE ON SHIN-CHAN NOW, HUH?
YOU BIG BULLY!
I'LL STOP YOU, PERVERT!
UM ...
ARE YOU OKAY?
Too late
TAKE THIS! AND THAT!
YOU PERVERTED BULLY!
Tangled
OH!
GOOD, I THINK IT'S TIME WE STOPPED THIS.
I'M NOT A KITTY!
KITTY'S RUNNING AWAY!
What's wrong with this picture?
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?
LET GO OF ME!
DON'T RUN AWAY!
HEY!
Help!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T RUN AWAY.


...Izzy...
Acht calls him...
Hmph!
From "Isadore" ...
OH. RIGHT.
ISADORE.
IT'S ISADORE.
I just call you "you."
Huh?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN?
SEE? YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER MY NAME.

THANK YOU.
SO FEEL FREE TO OPEN UP TO ME. AND CHEER UP.
FIRST OFF... SURE I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND.
Let's get you to a barbershop

ACHT, THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT.
Hmph!
I WAS ONLY TRYING TO SAVE YOU!
IT OKAY IF I CUT HIM LOOSE?
IT'S OKAY.
AW, MAN.
YOUR PAWS ARE REALLY TANGLED UP IN THAT HAIR.

SORRY.
SUCH A WASTE OF PRETTY BLOND HAIR.
NO ONE LIKES IT ANYWAY.
IT'S OKAY.

WHAT?
I WAS TEASED IN SCHOOL BACK IN AMERICA.
AND I BET I WILL BE HERE IN JAPAN.
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
UMM...

Voice or Noise
call 13
FZZT
URK!
HERE.
YOU DRINK-ING?
I'M GIVING UP AL-COHOL!
Graaah!
WHY?
Where are my pants?!
This morning's nightmare resurfaces.
GOOONG
NAH.
NO THANKS.

JUST THINK-ING...
...NARUSAWA-SAN WAS RIGHT.
Why're you smiling?
HUH?
WHAT'D HE SAY?
HE...
...TOLD ME...
?
What was that about?
BUT I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHY.
MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT THEN.
...THAT I'D GET ALONG WITH YOU...
...AND BE FRIENDS, SHINICHIRO.
call 12 END

HOW OLD-FASHIONED.
SHUT UP!
That's embarrassing!
ORDER?
NO!
MAYBE I SHOULD BUY A BIGGER BED.
Err...
WE SHOULD DO THINGS IN ORDER.
BESIDES, I HAVEN'T EVEN OFFICIALLY MOVED IN YET.
BUT...
...IT'S NATURAL NOW THAT WE'RE LIVING TOGETHER.
DO YOU NOT WANT TO SLEEP TOGETHER ANYMORE?
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
OF COURSE I WANT TO!

STAYING OVER?
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE WILL I BE SLEEPING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHERE?
ANYWAY...
...ARE YOU STAYING OVER AGAIN?
YEAH.
ARE YOU SICK OF SQUEEZING INTO THAT SMALL BED TOGETHER?
AND WHO IS IT THAT SAID THEY DIDN'T MIND SPOONING WHEN I SAID IT'D BE TIGHT?
WE'RE FINALLY LIVING TOGETHER, AND NOW SLEEPING APART?
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF WE SLEPT SEPARATELY?
ME, BUT THAT WAS BEFORE!

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING...
...WHEN YOU DECIDED TO OPEN YOUR HOUSE TO AN EXCHANGE STUDENT?!
I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I FOUND OUT!
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!
Hmph
DO YOU WANT TO HIDE IT?
SHINI-CHIRO.
WHAT?

Hello, I'm Izzy. Short for Isadore.
Smck
IZZY WHO?
...WHAT ABOUT IZZY?
JUST...
THEN WHAT?
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING!
GOOD.

SHINI-CHIRO.
...I REALIZE THAT WE CAN'T.
IF WE END UP LIVING TOGETHER, THERE'S A LOT I HAVE TO CONSIDER.
LIKE, ARE WE JUST "LIVING TOGETH-ER"?
WHEN YOU OFFERED YOUR PLACE
...I WAS BEYOND HAPPY, BUT...

...I THINK THINGS WILL GET MESSY.
I TOLD HIM IT WAS JUST CUZ I WAS DRUNK, BUT IF WE KEEP THIS UP...
...HE SAW US IN BED TOGETHER THIS MORN-ING.
MAYBE YOU'VE FOR-GOTTEN, BUT...
Oh.
WHAT ABOUT ISADORE?
SLEEPING TOGETHER, I MEAN!
IT'S WEIRD IF HE SEES US LIKE THAT!
IN OTHER WORDS?

YOU'VE GROWN...
...INTO ONE PATIENT...
...GUY.
I DON'T GET IT.
Hmph.
He asked if we'd sleep together 'cuz we're "friends."
I'M HONESTLY HAVING A PROBLEM...
...HAVING IZZY AROUND.
THAT WE'D DEFINITELY ...
...GET ALONG?
...DID YOU TELL HIM WE'D BE FRIENDS?
BESIDES ...
I HAVE TO SETTLE THIS FOR REAL WITH HIM.
OH, YEAH?

WHAT DO YOU ...
...THINK OF ALL THIS, NARUSAWA-SAN?
SORRY.
SORRY.
OF COURSE I'VE BEEN THINKING!
AND WE CAN'T HAVE IZZY SEEING THIS! HE'S STILL ONLY IN HIGH SCHOOL!
YOU'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT.
I can see that
AND YOU ONLY KNOW HIM THROUGH WORKING WITH HIS FATHER, RIGHT?
Narusawa-san, you're horrible.
.....
BULL'S EYE
WAIT A MINUTE.
YOU MEAN YOU HAON'T CONSIDERED ANY OF THIS?!
SORRY.
Is any of this getting through?!
Ha ha ha!
YOU SHOULD THINK MORE OFTEN.
...RENTING OUT THE ROOM TO ISADORE. SORRY.
I HONESTLY DIDN'T PUT MUCH THOUGHT INTO...
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BE SO NERVOUS ABOUT ALL THIS. I'M REALLY SORRY.

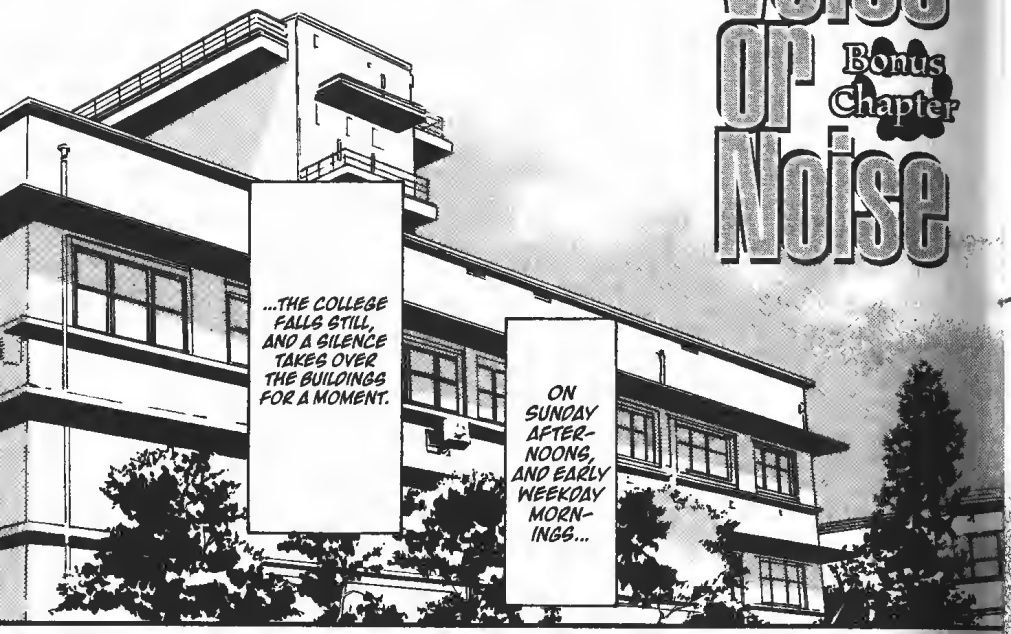
I HATE BEING APART.
SO I'VE DECIDED TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO KEEP US TOGETHER.
ALL I WANT IS TO BE WITH HIM.
I FEEL LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE WORKING HARD FOR THIS.
I KNOW THAT NARUSAWA-SAN CARES FOR ME, BUT...
...I DON'T FEEL ANY DESPERATION BEHIND IT.
NARUSAWA-SAN.
JUST LIKE ALWAYS, HE NEVER STOPS THINGS THAT COME, OR CHASES THINGS THAT LEAVE.
SO HOW IS HE WHEN IT COMES TO ME?
YEAH?

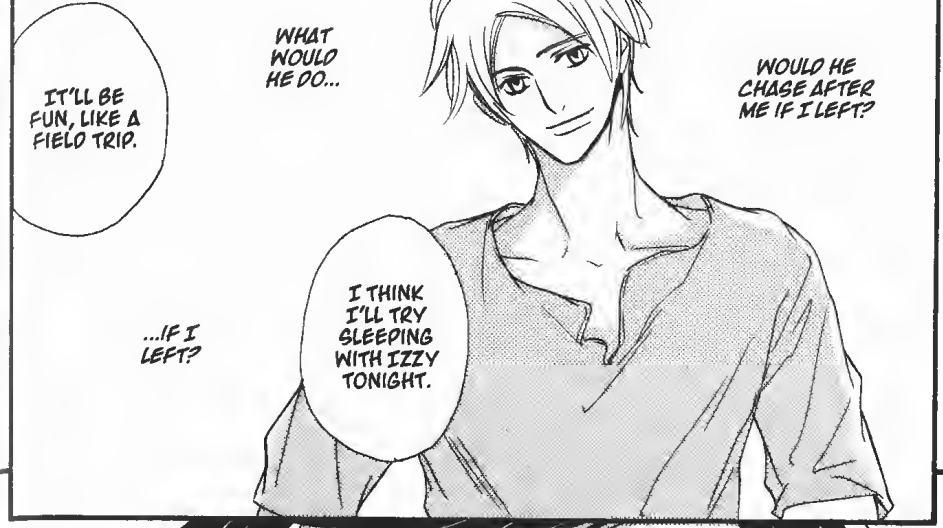
HMM.
FRIENDS, HUH?
IS THIS ...
...ANOTHER NARU-SAWA TEST?
SURE.
SO IT'S OKAY IF WE'RE FRIENDS?
OF COURSE. YOU TWO ARE IN THE SAME AGE GROUP.
!?
THEN THAT MEANS ...
...THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION...
...OF OUTING OUR RELATION-SHIP.
IS HE TRYING TO TEST MY INTEREST AGAIN?
I WANTED TO ASK, BUT I KEPT MY COOL.
HE'S RIGHT WHEN HE SAYS I'M PATIENT.
BUT I DON'T THINK I'M ANY MORE GROWN UP.

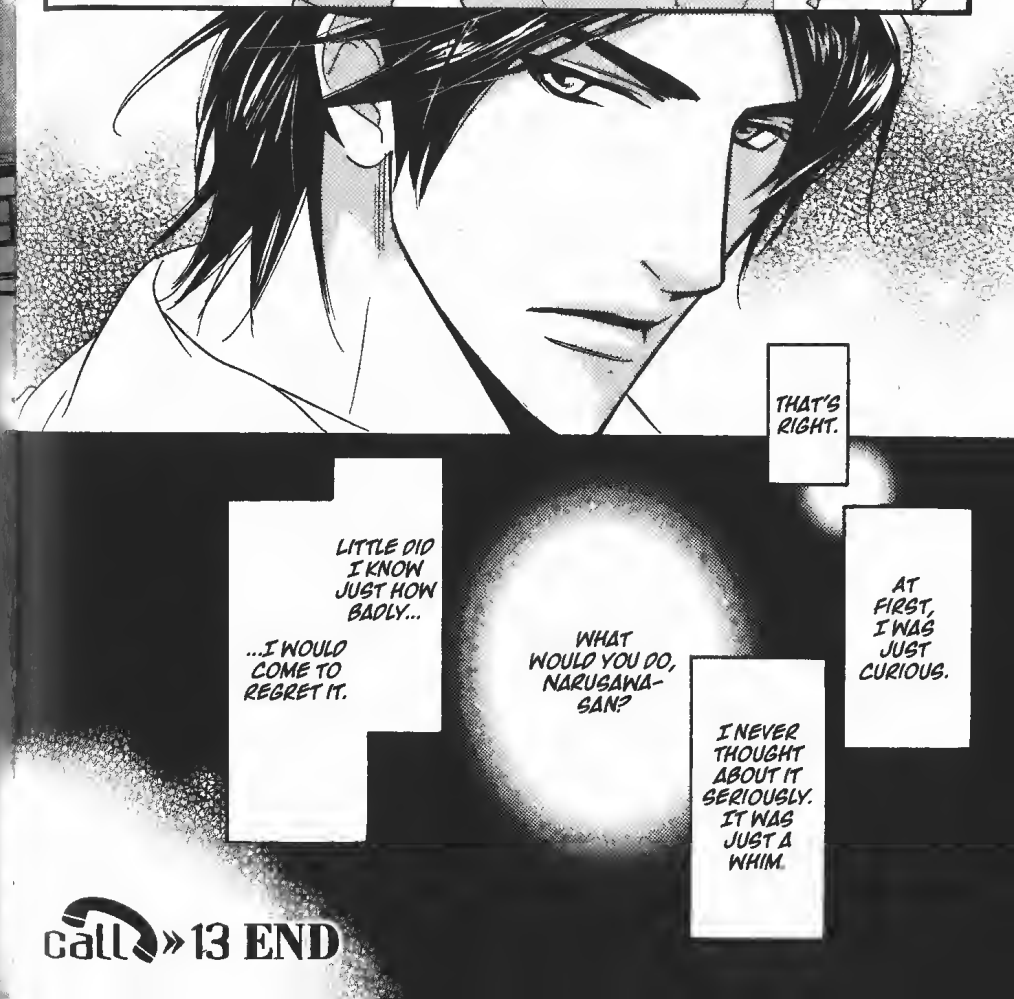
My Teacher

Voice or Noise

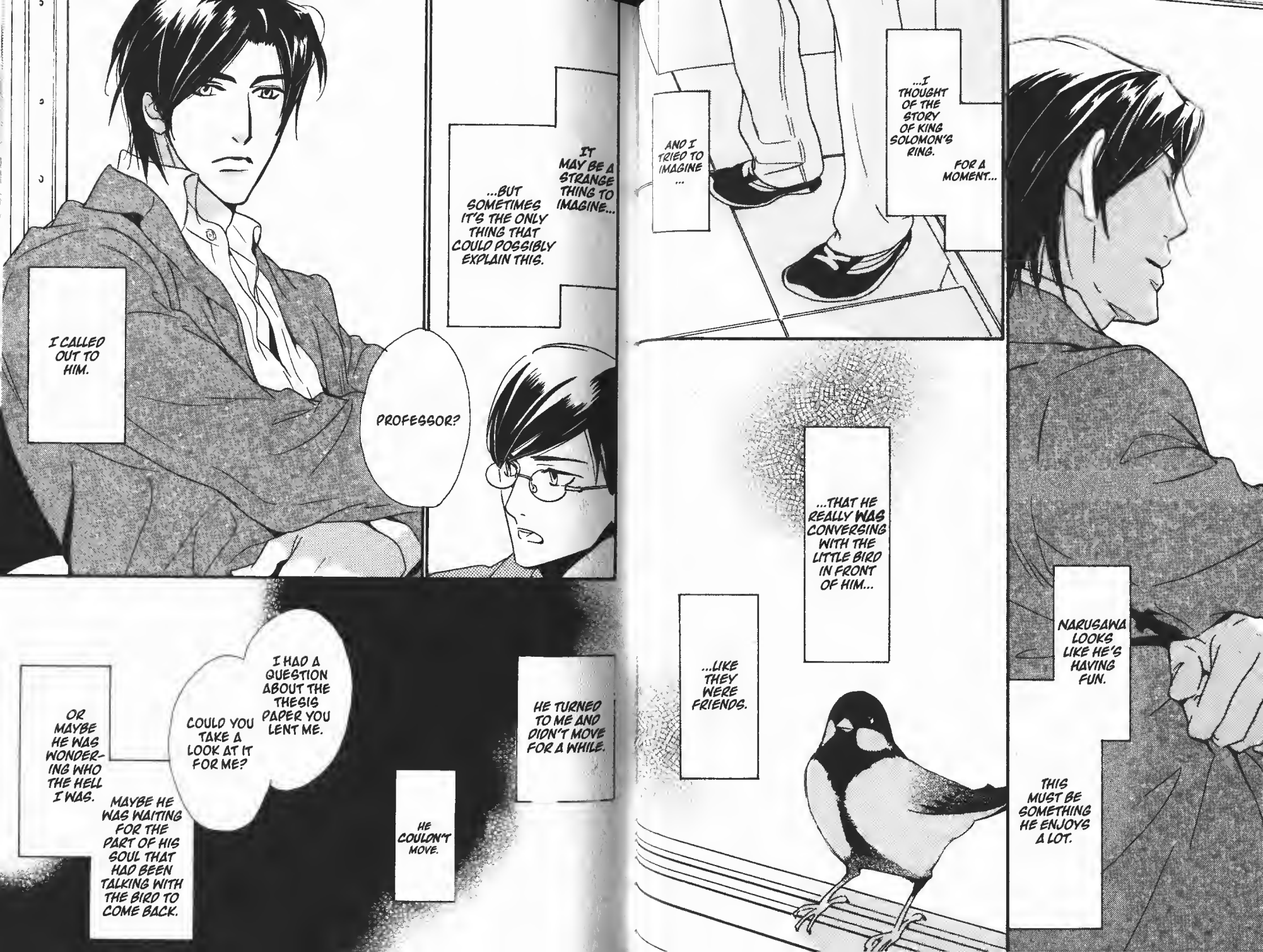
Bonus Chapter

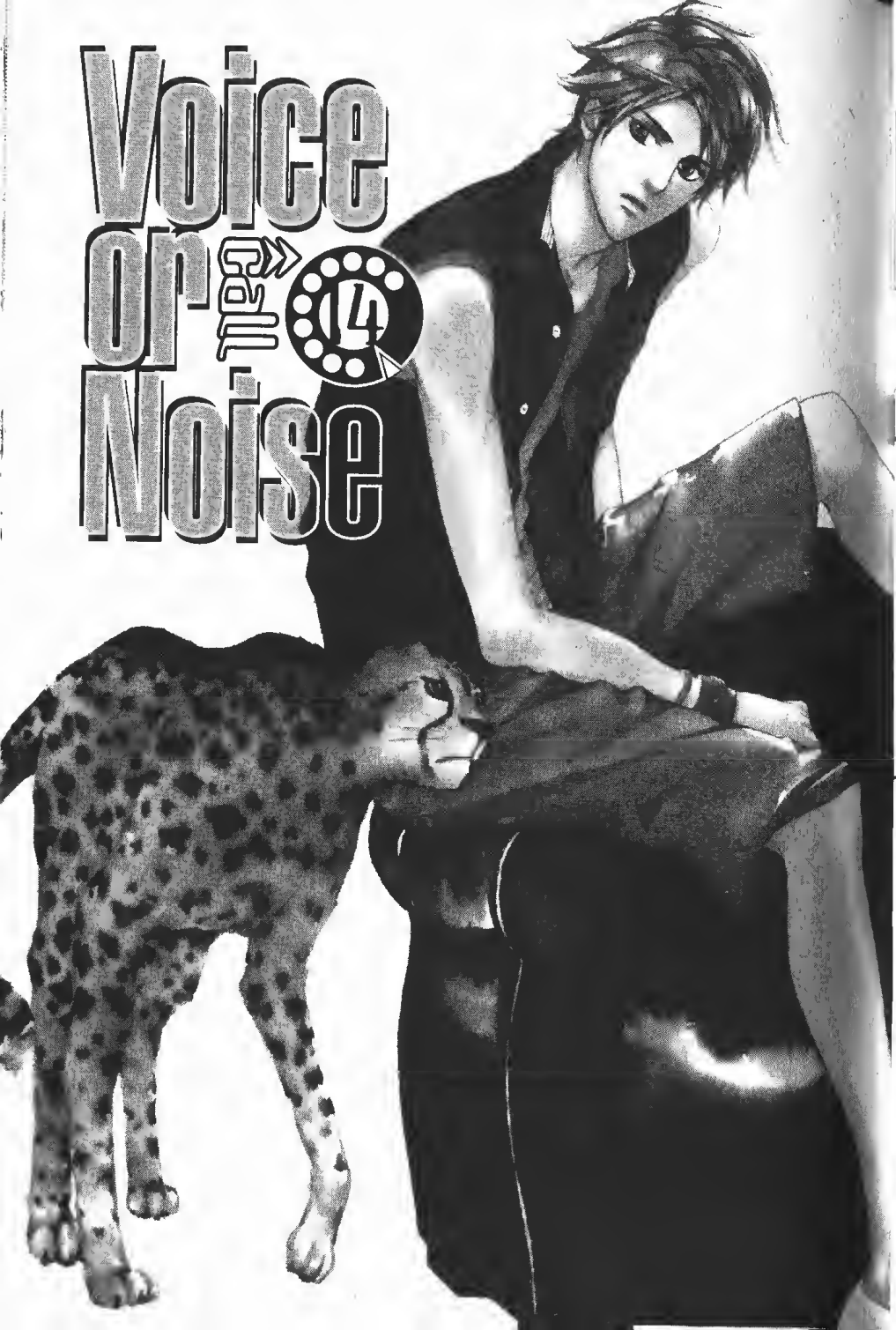

...THE COLLEGE FALLS STILL, AND A SILENCE TAKES OVER THE BUILDINGS FOR A MOMENT.
ON SUNDAY AFTER-NOONS, AND EARLY WEEKDAY MORN-INGS...


IT'LL BE FUN, LIKE A FIELD TRIP.
WHAT WOULD HE DO...
WOULD HE CHASE AFTER ME IF I LEFT?
...IF I LEFT?
I THINK I'LL TRY SLEEPING WITH IZZY TONIGHT.

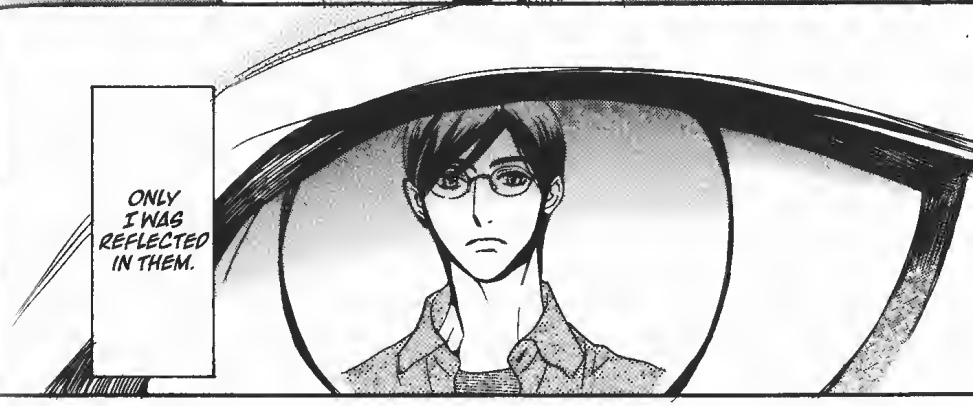

THAT'S RIGHT.
LITTLE DID I KNOW JUST HOW BADLY...
...I WOULD COME TO REGRET IT.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO, NARUSAWA-SAN?
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT SERIOUSLY. IT WAS JUST A WHIM.
AT FIRST, I WAS JUST CURIOUS.

THERE HE IS.
MY PROFESSOR, NARUSAWA.
WHEN HE'S ARGUING WITH AN IMAGINARY PERSON, I WONDER IF HE'S JUST TRYING TO SORT OUT HIS THOUGHTS.
TWEET
IT MIGHT MAKE THE PERFECT BED FOR YOU.
IT'S SO FLUFFY.
BESIDES, IT'S NOT EVEN FOOD.
NO, NO. THAT'S NOT HOW YOU EAT IT.
SO HE'S TALKING ABOUT FLUFFY BEDS TODAY.
I don't quite follow.
SOMETIMES IT'S ABOUT HUMAN TERRITORY.
OR THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN REACHING ADULTHOOD AND ONE'S LIFESPAN.
HE LOOKS JUST AS COOL AS ALWAYS.
YUP.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH THAT LITTLE BIRD.
HUH?
THIS LINE OF WORK CAUSES PEOPLE TO TALK TO THEMSELVES MORE THAN THE AVERAGE.
AND NARUSAWA IS NO DIFFERENT.
BUT WHAT'S IT MEAN WHEN HE'S HAVING...
...THESE CONVERSATIONS WITH HIMSELF?
I DON'T EVEN THINK THAT'S HUMAN FOOD.
NOT LIKE I COULD EVEN STOMACH YOUR FAVORITE MEAL.
IT'S NOT A BIRD-SHAPED CELL PHONE, IS IT?


NARUSAWA LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING FUN.
THIS MUST BE SOMETHING HE ENJOYS A LOT.
...THAT HE REALLY WAS CONVERSING WITH THE LITTLE BIRD IN FRONT OF HIM...
...LIKE THEY WERE FRIENDS.
...I THOUGHT OF THE STORY OF KING SOLOMON'S RING.
FOR A MOMENT...
AND I TRIED TO IMAGINE ...
IT MAY BE A STRANGE THING TO IMAGINE...
...BUT SOMETIMES IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT COULD POSSIBLY EXPLAIN THIS.
I CALLED OUT TO HIM.
PROFESSOR?
HE TURNED TO ME AND DIDN'T MOVE FOR A WHILE.
HE COULDN'T MOVE.
I HAD A QUESTION ABOUT THE THESIS PAPER YOU LENT ME.
COULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT IT FOR ME?
OR MAYBE HE WAS WONDERING WHO THE HELL I WAS.
MAYBE HE WAS WAITING FOR THE PART OF HIS SOUL THAT HAD BEEN TALKING WITH THE BIRD TO COME BACK.


Voice or Noise
14

WAS I HUMAN? A THING? AN ANIMAL?
I SAW MYSELF REFLECTED IN THOSE TWO DARK VOIDS HE HAD FOR EYES.


ONLY I WAS REFLECTED IN THEM.

PROF.
YOU'RE NOT HOLDING A RING OR KERCHIEF, ARE YOU?
THAT'S MY SECRET.
AH, TAKÁ-HASHI.
AND THERE'S NOTHING I LOVE MORE THAN THOSE EYES.
HUH?

E.N.D

MAN, I'M SO TIRED...
I HARD-LY GOT A WINK OF SLEEP LAST NIGHT.
Ugh...
THAT'S BECAUSE I SHARED THE BED WITH IZZY.
THERE'S NO ROOM!
I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER IF I FELL ASLEEP.
I just remember sleeping horribly.
BUT, HEY, IT WAS ALL MY IDEA.

Yamimaru Enjin Presents

Voice or Noise

I'll spill it all!
I'VE BEEN HOLDING OUT SO LONG THAT IT'S KILLING ME AND THAT'S WHAT I GET?! NARUSAWA-SAN, YOU BIG IDIOT!
I'M GETTING MORE AND MORE BOTHERED ABOUT THIS!
WHAT ABOUT OUR LOVEY-DOVEY ROMANTIC CAMPUS AND HOUSE LIFE TOGETHER?! ♡
Huff
Huff
GRIP
I WONDER WHAT NARUSAWA-SAN WILL THINK.
I SAID THAT, HOPING TO SEE HOW HE'D REACT.
BUT IT JUST BACKFIRED ON ME.
I THINK I'LL TRY SLEEPING WITH IZZY TONIGHT.
IT'LL BE FUN, LIKE A FIELD TRIP.
NARUSAWA-SAN'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH IZZY IN THE FIRST PLACE.
DOES THAT MEAN SHOWING HIM AROUND TOWN, AND TAKING HIM OUT SHOPPING?
IT TURNS OUT HE'S ATTENDING THE HIGH SCHOOL NEAR MY COLLEGE.
MAYBE HE'S IMPLYING THAT I WALK HOME WITH HIM, TOO.
IF YOU WEREN'T, THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO CALL IZZY.
GO AHEAD AND SPILL IT.
Just don't bring Izzy.
HEY!
WERE YOU EAVESDROPPING?!
ACHT, ARE YOU LISTENING?!
Whatever.
Give me a break!
YOU COULD AT LEAST SAY SOMETHING!
If you're going to sleep with him, then get along with him.
Heh heh heh.
COULD IT BE...
...HE'S DUMPING HIM ON ME?!
SCHEMER
BEING THAT WE'RE ALMOST THE SAME AGE, I HAVE TO SHOW HIM THE ROPES.
IT MAKES SENSE, THOUGH. IZZY'S A HIGH SCHOOLER, ALL ALONE IN A NEW COUNTRY.

LOOOM
So that's your aim.
THAT PERVY FREAK CAN HAVE A HEART ATTACK AND RUN BACK HOME TO NEW YORK FOR ALL I CARE!
BESIDES, IT'S STILL A DELICATE MATTER. THERE'RE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER, AND SO ON AND SO FORTH.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT? IT'S WHAT NARUNARU DESERVES.
DON'T YOU AGREE, SHIN-CHAN?
URK.
SO TELL HIM! LET IT ALL HANG OUT!
NO.
BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT!
Ha!
IF I TELL HIM, IZZY WILL PROBABLY FREAK OUT AND HAVE A HEART ATTACK!

SPILL IT?
ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NARUNARU.
Ha! ♡
YOU SHOULD TELL THAT PERVERT IZZY...
...THAT YOU'RE IN A SCANDALOUS RELATION SHIP.
I SAID, GO AHEAD AND TELL HIM EVERYTHING.
HUH?
CUZ I HAVE TRUST ISSUES, I GUESS.
WHY NOT?
N-NO WAY! I COULD NEVER DO THAT!
THEN YOU CAN FINALLY START YOUR LOVEY-DOVEY TIME.

THEN BE GAY!
BUT I'M ONLY GAY FOR NARUSAWA-SAN!
THAT'S STILL GAY.
ERR...
BEING GAY.
Err
If I had to say it.
YOU DON'T LIKE GETTING ATTENTION, DO YOU?
I HAD NO IDEA YOU CARED SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT SOCIETY THOUGHT OF YOU.
OF COURSE NOT!
GRIN
GRIN
GRIN
ARE YOU SCARED OF BEING OUT AS GAY?
Erk!
WHAT ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF?
HUMANS ARE ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF.
#!?
I TOLD YOU, IT'S SENSITIVE!
SO DON'T SAY ANY-THING!
...and flirting like before! ♥
Unable to keep your hands off each other...
Thanks, I've had my fill.
Burp
I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH YOU TWO BEING ALL MUSHY SO FAR.
So he should, too!
YOU'LL END UP ON TOP IF YOU DO.
WHY?!
.....
JUST BE-CAUSE.
WHY NOT?
YOU DON'T WANT HIM FINDING OUT?
WHAT IS IT?
YOU DON'T WANT HIM KNOWING?

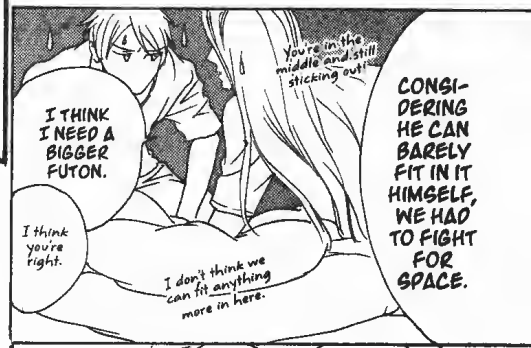
Anyway.
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME WORRYING ABOUT YOU.
I'M SORRY. I KNOW YOU WERE JUST WORRIED ABOUT ME.
AW, ACHT.
Quit sulking.
NOW CHEER UP.
PLEASE?
Hmph.
AAAUGH...
Starting back to that again?
GIVE ME THE JUICY DETAILS
HOW WAS IT SLEEPING WITH ANOTHER GUY BESIDES NARUNARU?
SO I SAW YOU WERE SLEEPING WITH IZZY.
HEY!
SORRY FOR JUST BEING A CAT.
WAIT!
ACHT!
I'M SORRY!
ACHT!
C'MON!
Hmph!
OH, IS THAT SO!
Hmm?
YOU DON'T WANT ME TALKING?
JUST IGNORE ME.
I DON'T GET YOU SILLY HUMANS ANYWAY.
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN TALK TO OTHER HUMANS.
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

He's back!
BONK
KITTY!!!
He's back again!
ガバッ
Hm?
HEY!
ISADORE!
ACHT NOT'S HERE!
HEY, HEY, HEY!
YOU MEAN HE RAN AWAY AGAIN?
SNIFL

flick
YOWCH!

OW!
THAT HURTS!
ACHT, WHAT'S THE MATTER?!

IT WAS A TOUGH NIGHT.
THERE'S NOTHING MUCH TO SAY.
WE HAD TO SHARE ONE FUTON, AND IZZY'S HUGE!
Can't even fit in it himself.


I THINK I NEED A BIGGER FUTON.
I think you're right.
You're in the middle and still sticking out!
I don't think we can fit anything more in here.
CONSIDERING HE CAN BARELY FIT IN IT HIMSELF, WE HAD TO FIGHT FOR SPACE.

Mm-hm
...THAT IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE FOR TWO GUYS TO SLEEP TOGETHER.
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED ...
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH!

HUH?!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WHEN YOU KEEP ATTACKING HIM LIKE THIS?
DO I HAVE TO TEACH YOU ALL OVER AGAIN?
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
THROB THROB
ARE YOU MAD?
Ow...
THANKS TO YOU, HE SCRATCHED ME ALL UP!
Even got my face
I'M SO SORRY!
Sigh...
MAYBE YOU SHOULD CONSIDER TYING YOUR HAIR BACK.
YOU MIGHT GET IT TANGLED UP LIKE BEFORE.

Eeeek!
KEEP IN MIND THOU HAST BUT ONE BODY IN THIS LIFETIME.
SO TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT.
HUH? WHAT?!
What are you trying to pull?!
GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF ME!
Combat Kick
OH, WHAT A TERRIBLE SHAME.
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE SHOWING YOUR FACE?!
HUH?
What shame?
!
THAT THY IMMACULATE SKIN BE MARRED BY SUCH INJURIES.

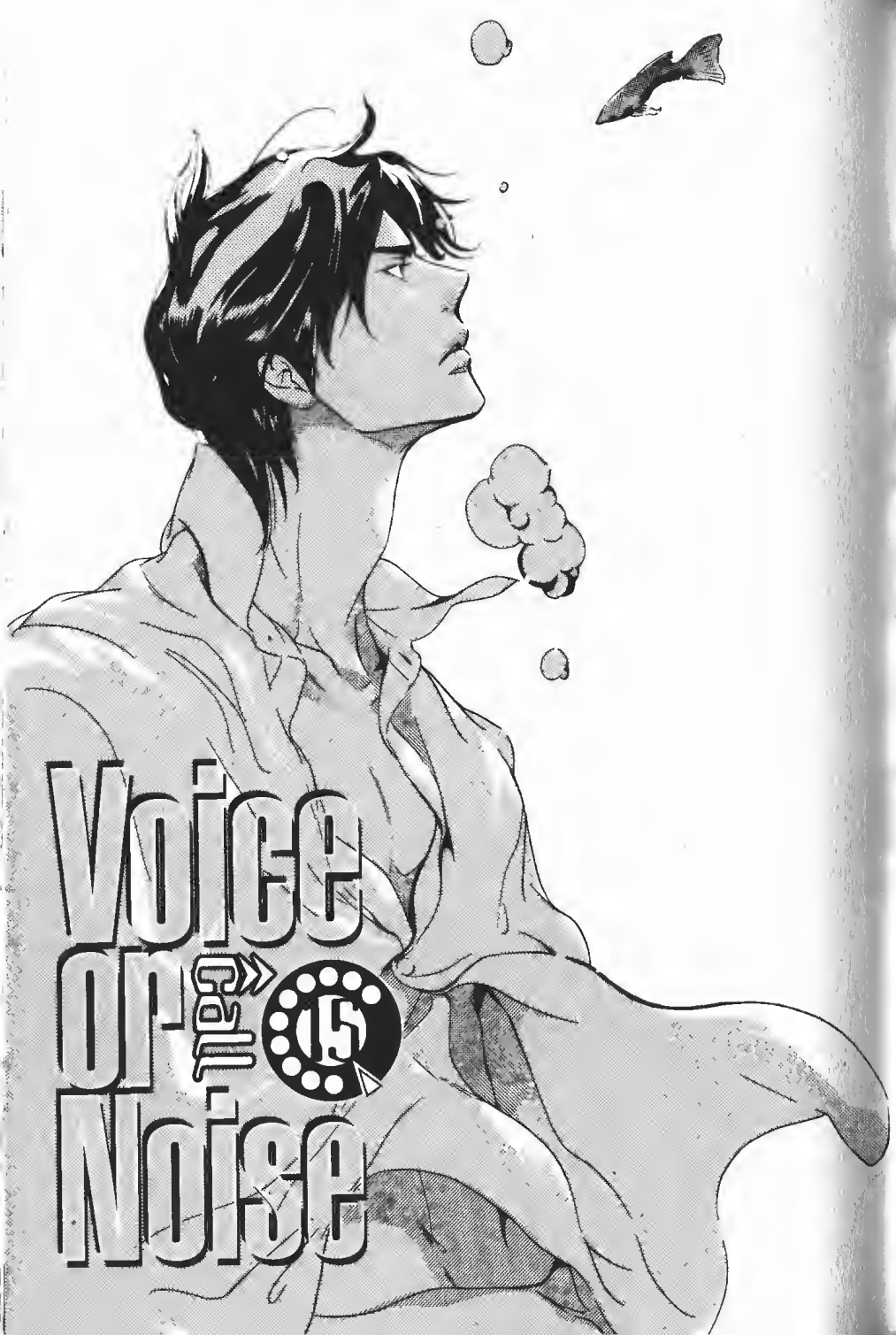
DUMBFOUNDED
UH...
Oh.
ARE YOUR INJURIES OKAY?
WHAT THE HELL?!
Gasp!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BEARD?!
WHY?!
I SHAVED IT OFF.

ISADORE.
SHINI-CHIRO... WHAT A LOVELY NAME.
I WISH TO REWARD YOU.
I HAVE BEEN TOLD SIMILAR THINGS ALL MY LIFE...
That was a normal...
...conversation, right?
BUT THE WORDS AS THEE SPAKE THEM STRUCK A CHORD WITHIN ME, SHINICHIRO.
I HAVE WATCHED MANY JAPANESE DRAMAS SINCE I WAS A CHILD.
On the Asian channel.
WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO SPEAK JAPANESE LIKE THAT?
Oh my lord, don't strike me down..
SAMURAI DRAMAS?!
It's not just odd, it's unnatural.
GLOOM
IS IT TRULY THAT ODD?
HOWEVER, NARUSAWA INSTRUCTED ME TO PUT AN END TO IT.
BUT THOO TOLDEST ME MY BEARD WAS IN THE WAY.
NO.
DID I SCARE THEE?
Huff!
Huff!
ANYWAY, I'M JUST SUPER SURPRISED THAT YOU SHAVED YOUR BEARD!
HUH?
You sound like a samurai.
WHY ARE YOU TALKING SO WEIRD, ANYWAY?
AND WHEN DID I EVER SAY THAT?
AND THAT IT WAS UNSIGHTLY FOR ME TO HIDE MY FACE WITH MY HAIR AND SUNGLASSES.
THOU SAID I'D BE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF IF I REMAINED SO HESITANT.
WELL I GUESS I DID SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
THOO TOLDEST ME LAST NIGHT.
THOU SAIDST THAT I SHOULD BE MYSELF AND HAVE MORE SELF-CONFIDENCE.

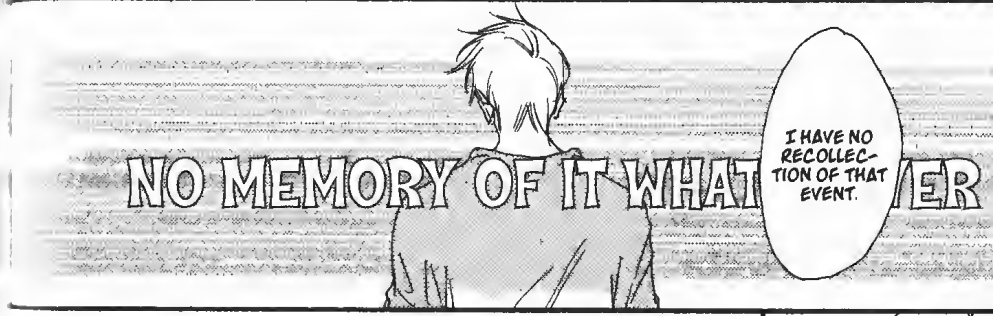
Smooch
MANY THANKS TO YOU!
THIS BECOMETH THEE!
OH, SHINI-CHIRO!
Hey now.
Now you're sounding even stranger.
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FOR?!

BEAM!
NOT KNOWING WHAT WAS CORRECT MADE COVERSING RATHER DIFFICULT.
Phew!
I'M GLAD YOU AGREE!
IT'S HONESTLY EASIER FOR ME THIS WAY, TOO.
Though it's still a little strange
I DUNNO IF I'D SAY "OOO."
YOU'RE PRETTY FLUENT SPEAKING THAT WAY. AND YOUR PRONUNCI-ATION'S SPOT-ON.
I SEE.
OH.
GLOOM
Well...
EVEN IF YOU ARE GOOD AT IT, IT'S STILL WEIRD.
WHAT ...?
YOU MIND? I BET YOU DON'T LIKE HAVING TO BE CORRECTED AT THIS POINT.
AND GIVE POINTERS ON YOUR SPEAKING.
IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT NO CHOICE, SO I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU.
AW, WHAT-EVER.

I JUST WANNA KISS YOU SO BADLY RIGHT NOW.
Haaa...
MAYBE I'VE GOT TOO MUCH STORED UP INSIDE.
Huh?
I CAN'T SLEEP AT ALL.
NNNGH...
WASN'T HE JUST FAST ASLEEP?
He looks asleep
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, KISSING SOMEONE WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION?!
And on the lips, no less!
Totally not acceptable!
OF COURSE I'M UPSET!
Eep...
HUH?
WHAT?
SHINICHIRO, ART THOU UPSET?
THOU SAIDST I COULD...
BUT WHAT?!
BUT!
BUT!
What?!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
LATE LAST NIGHT...
Errrrrrngh!
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
HUH?
Mm...
HERE, LEMME DO IT...


Voice or Noise
call 15

EEW, YOU GOT A STUPID BEARD.
SO...
...IF I SHAVE IT, I CAN KISS YOU?
Go and shave it.
UH-HUH. YOU CAN KISS ME ALL NIGHT IF YOU WANT.
See? You said it right there.
END OF FLASH-BACK


I HAVE NO RECOLLEC-TION OF THAT EVENT.
NO MEMORY OF IT WHAT ER

AND THUS, THE STORM OF CHAOS BEGAN...
YES
Did I really do all that?

ARE YOU WATCHING SHIN-CHAN AND IZZY?
WELL, WELL, WELL!
IS THAT REALLY IZZY?
HUH?
SHUCKS.
HE'S GOT NO MORE BEARD, AND LOOKS UNSETTLINGLY ATTRACTIVE.
WHY'S THAT?
BUT THAT PERVERT'S GOT HIS PERVERT GLASSES OFF.
AW, PHOOIE.
BEATS ME.
WONDER WHAT SORT OF MENTAL CHANGE THAT REQUIRED.

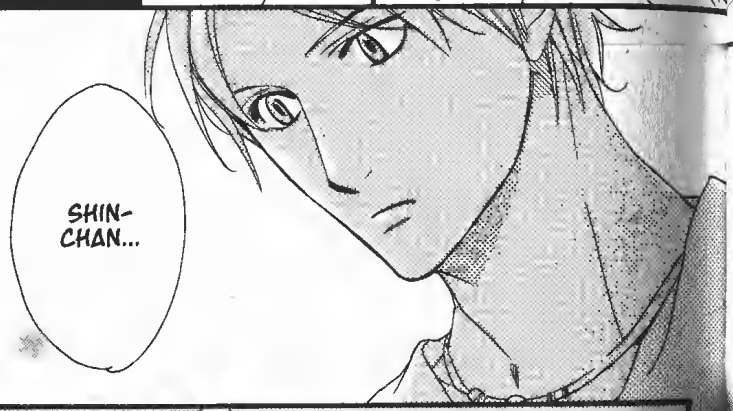
JUST WORK.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
SO?
THAT'S A PRETTY INTENSE GLARE.
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
I SAID WORK!
WELL?
WHAT COULD IT BE?
I'M ASKING WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT.
LIAR. YOU'VE HAD YOUR EYES GLUED TO ONE SPOT.

YOU HAVE TO BE MORE HONEST WITH YOURSELF!
QUIT PRETENDING LIKE YOU'RE NOT CONCERNED.
OH!
THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY.
NO!
LET ME GO!
C'MON, DON'T RUN AWAY.
The pervert's coming!
NARUSAWA-SAAAN!
LOOK AT WHAT WE FOUND!
Ack!
WE FOUND THIS GIANT RABBIT!
...WHY WAS THIS RABBIT IN OUR BACK-YARD?
SO...
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
Ugh...

HUP!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ACHT?
GUESS WE'D BETTER GET HIM BACK TO HIS OWNER THEN.
A bad match.
NOT EXACTLY.
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE THAT PERVY RABBIT FROM WHEN I WAS A KID.
Is he back to get me?
This can't be the same one, right?

HMM.

SO YOU HAVE NO IDEA?
HERE.
YEAH.
YEAH.
WOW, HE REALLY IS HUGE!


SHIN-CHAN...

...THE POOR THING IS IN SO MUCH PAIN. PLEASE LET HIM STAY HERE.

BUT THAT'S ABOUT ALL I KNOW.

I'M GUESS-ING IT'S A RUN-AWAY.
WHAT?!
RUN-AWAY?
YOU MEAN IT RAN AWAY FROM HOME AND CAME ALL THE WAY HERE?
ALL ON ITS OWN?
HMM.
When it's this big?

I CAN'T OPEN A LINE OF COMMU-NICATION WITH IT.
THEY ONLY SPEAK WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.
THIS KIND OF RABBIT WON'T SAY MUCH.
SO EVEN YOU HAVE YOUR LIMITS.
WOW.

HEY!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
YOU DON'T HAVE ONE?
THAT'S SO CRUEL!
!
LOOKS LIKE ACHT CAN HEAR HIM TALK.
YUP.

They're getting along pretty well.
THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME HE'S BEEN ABLE TO...
...COMMUNICATE WITH ANOTHER ANIMAL.
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
Heh heh!
Heh heh!

.....
GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT'S BECAUSE OF THE NEW OWNER THAT CAME TO HIS HOUSE.
IS THAT RIGHT?
HE DIDN'T REALLY RUN AWAY SO MUCH AS GET KICKED OUT OF THE HOUSE.
WHAT ?!
Aaaah!

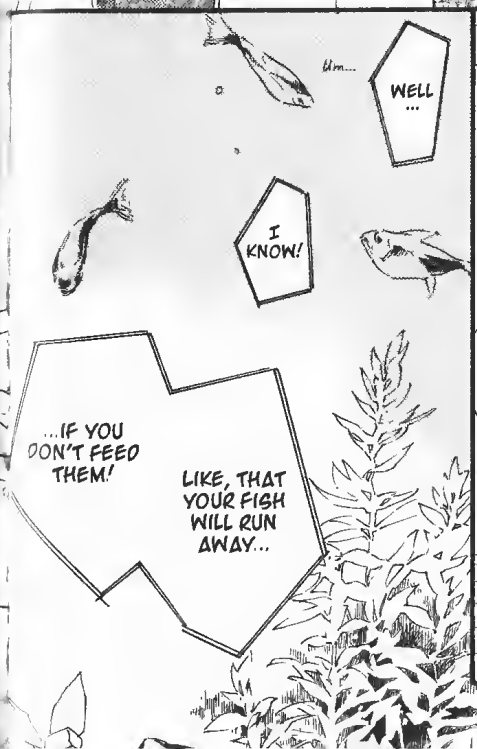
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABSOLUTELY HORRIBLE?
THAT'S WHAT THE RABBIT SAID!
All I heard is that he ran away from home
ACHT, WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?
YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T HEAR HIM?!
ACHT, YOU CAN ACTUALLY HEAR HIM?!
?
!
I didn't hear anything.
Gasp!

I COMPLETELY FORGOT THE MAJOR ISSUE AT HAND.
AND THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED.
WE CAN'T TALK WITH ACHT NORMALLY WHEN IZZY'S RIGHT THERE.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A RUNAWAY RABBIT? WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T QUITE FOLLOW.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ACHT?
UH, JUST THE RABBIT.
ER, NOTHING...
...FEEL LIKE I MISSED OUT ON A LOT OF STUFF THAT WAS HAPPENING.
I...
WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ELSE.
Japanese is hard
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
AW, MAN.
You're so big and soft and white, like a fluffy marshmallow!
IS THAT WHAT YOU NOTICE?
I'D NEARLY FORGOTTEN THAT ACHT CAN ONLY TALK TO ME AND NARUSAWA-SAN. IT MUST'VE BEEN REALLY LONELY FOR HIM.
HE'S GOT A POINT.
...BEEN TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT HAVE YOU TWO...
OOPS, FORGOT HE WAS HERE.
UM, EXCUSE ME...

IGNORE
A JUMBO-SIZED ONE AT THAT.
AND A RABBIT, HUH?
Even more humiliating because they can communicate.
I SHOULD REALLY COME BY SOMETIME.
THAT'S SOMETHING NARUSAWA SHOULD AVOID.
Heh heh hen.
DINNER'S READY! TALK TO YOU LATER!
OOPS, THEY'RE CALLING ME!
BEEP
WHAT?
WHAT THE HECK? THAT WAS A TOTALLY ONE-SIDED CONVERSATION.
Sheesh.

WHAT SORT OF MAN DOES THAT?
IS THAT REALLY FOR YOU TO SAY?
THERE'S NO PROBLEM.
Plus he looks away
THAT'S ALL HE SAYS.
ACHT'S STILL UPTIGHT ABOUT IZZY BEING AROUND...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH NARUSAWA-SAN FOR THAT MATTER?
...AND WHAT ABOUT FROM NOW ON?

I THOUGHT ANIMALS HAD A GREAT SENSE OF DIRECTION.
Urk.
...HE FORGOT WHERE HE IS OR WHERE HE CAME FROM.
RUNAWAY OR NOT, ALONG THE WAY...
HE DIDN'T RUN AWAY?
SO HE'S LOST AND DOESN'T KNOW HIS WAY HOME?
HUH?


Um...
WELL...
I KNOW!
...IF YOU DON'T FEED THEM!
LIKE, THAT YOUR FISH WILL RUN AWAY...

LOOKS LIKE A LOT...
...HAS HAPPENED BEFORE I REALIZED IT.
HOW SO?
YEAH.
...YOUR OPINION.
AND TELL YOUR LIFE-LONG FRIEND...
YOU SHOULD REALLY COME OVER SOMETIME, IKEGAMI-SENSEI.

Hissss! What are you doing with my precious bunny?!
Hissss!
He's hissing at me.
Hissing.
GLARE
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?
Soooo soft!
JUST HELP HIM FIND HIS HOME.
AAW, DON'T BE SO MEAN!
Like a big ol' marshmallow!
Hmph.
That's low, taking him as your hostage!
Hiss!
Hiss!
Grrrr!
C'mere, boy.
ACHTY?
U-- UM.
BOUNDARY
Can't cross this line when Acht's around.
mrrgh!
WHAT IS THIS, A LOVE TRIANGLE?
This is so dumb.
BUNNY
IZZY
ACHTY

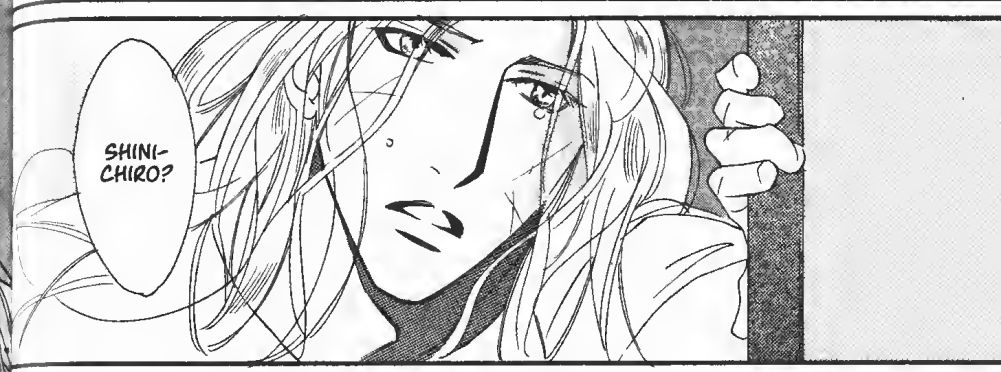
IT'S LIKE OUR EYES DON'T MEET ANYMORE.
IT REMINDS ME OF HOW HE WAS...
...WHEN WE FIRST MET ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.
LATELY...
...I GET THE FEELING THAT HE'S BEEN AVOIDING MY GAZE A LOT.
AND ALL THE FRUSTRATION'S STARTING TO BUILD UP.
WHY, THOUGH? AM I JUST MAKING UP...
...THIS STRANGE FEELING? WE HAVEN'T BEEN ALONE IN A LONG TIME.
Gasp!
NO THANKS.
NARUSAWA-SAN, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
OH!
BTAM
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

AND I MEAN THAT LITERALLY.
I WANT YOU TO LOOK RIGHT AT ME.
OH?
WELL I DO.
NOT REALLY.
WHAT?
TO SEE YOU.
C'mere, c'mere.
SNUGGLE
THREE-WAY DEADLOCK
Hisss! Hisss!
YES!!
NOW!
NOW'S MY CHANCE!
THEY'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE ANY TIME SOON!
WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER ...
...IN SO LONG.
I THOUGHT ...
...YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DO.
NARU-SAWA-SAN?
RIGHT, NARUSAWA-SAN?

I SUDDENLY ...
...REMEMBERED.
SHEESH!
ドカ
ドカ
HELP ME!
HELP!
He's hurting me!
Grawl
Grawl
SHINICHIRO, SAVE ME...
THE LAST WORDS I SAID OVER THE PHONE TO IKEGAMI-SENSEI.
THEY DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING VERY SIGNIFICANT...
...BUT I SAID, "IF YOU DON'T FEED YOUR FISH, THEY'LL RUN AWAY ON YOU."

SHIN.
DO YOU WANNA KISS?
I WANT TO!
WE HAVEN'T TOUCHED HERE IN A WHILE.
YEAH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
^_^
Gyaaaah!

Voice or Noise
call 16
A SCHOOL UNIFORM'S AN INTERESTING THING.
IT ACTS AS AN INDICATOR FOR WHERE A STUDENT IS ENROLLED.


SHINI-CHIRO?

IT CAN BE A LOT MORE TROUBLING WHEN IT HAPPENS UNEXPECTEDLY.
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NOT LOOKING FOR LOVE, YOU HOOK IT AND GET HOOKED ON IT.
WHAT KIND OF FISH DID I JUST HOOK?

call »15 END

PRIVATE BOYS SCHOOL
It's like an enchanted garden for someone coming from a coed public high school.
There's one thing that comes to mind when you think of S Academy.
Hee hee!
Ha ha!
Tension
SHIN-CHAN.
WHAT?
I'VE BEEN THINK-ING...
...YOU'VE GOT A THING FOR PER-VERTED WORDS.
I feel a little inferior.
SO YOU'RE STUDY-ING AT S ACADEMY.
HUH.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO WEARING A JAPANESE SCHOOL UNIFORM.
THEY LOOK SO COOL!
WHAT?!
ARE YOU ACTUALLY A PERVERT IN HIDING?
IT'S WEIRD GETTING HOT OVER AN ALL BOYS' SCHOOL RATHER THAN ALL GIRLS'.
QUIET!
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE EVEN GETTING OFF ON THIS ALL BOYS' SCHOOL STUFF.
NO IT'S NOT.
THAT'S NORMAL!
Huh?
...PUNISH-MENT AND REWARD.
YOU LIKE WORDS LIKE...
What's with all the flowers?
QUIET!
EVEN THOUGH I WAS CLOSE TO SAYING THAT MYSELF.
LOOKS LIKE COSPLAY TO ME.
むぐぐ
...A SINGLE LOOK AT A UNIFORM CAN TELL YOU WHAT SCHOOL IT'S FROM AND WHAT GRADE THE STUDENT IS IN.
ASIDE FROM PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL TASTES...
...AND HIDDEN BUTTONS.
IT CAN ALSO TELL YOU APART FROM OTHER THE SCHOOLS.
PLAIN LIGHT GREY COLOR ...
CUT TO HIS EXACT MEASURE-MENTS AND DESIGNED TO EMPHASIZE A BOY'S BODY LINES.
BUT IS THAT UNI-FORM...
...FROM THAT ONE SCHOOL?
ER, NO...
Yeah, it's weird
UM ...
...DOES IT LOOK ODD?
Trying it on
THE AREA'S MOST ELITE AND DIFFICULT
S ACADEMY

OH!
CUT YOUR HAIR, IZZY!
ANY-WAY!
Why?!
AM I REALLY THE ONLY ONE GETTING EXCITED ABOUT THIS?
What?
Huh?
What?
Japanese tend to have a soft spot for Caucasians.
YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, IZZY'S QUITE THE LOOKER.
Hee hee
HE MIGHT SNATCH UP YOUR BOY...
...NARU-NARU.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SHIN-CHAN?
GOOD QUES-TION.
I THINK HE'S STARTING TO LIKE IZZY.
Are you going to curl it or something?!
Your hair's too long!
NARUNARU2

Isn't it incredible?! He looks like some sort of prince!
LOOK!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
OH! NARUSAWA-SAN!
WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET ABOUT?
HEY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
FOR A HEALTHY YOUNG CHAP LIKE YOU.
Scared to Imagine Him Walking Through Town
They're totally going to come up with a cool nickname for him!
Squeal! Squeal!
IT'S ALL TOO VISUALLY STUNNING!
I MEAN THE SCHOOL UNIFORM!
AND THE KID WEARING IT!
WHAT?

Narusawa-san, let's walk home together!

...SHINICHIRO'S WAS BLACK WITH GOLD BUTTONS WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER.

Fairly typical.

SPEAKING OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS ...

It was pretty good.

Mm hm

It's probably against school rules to have long hair.

Not listening

No! Don't cut it! I'd rather wear a wig!

ACHT COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW A SIMPLE SCHOOL UNIFORM...

...COULD GET PEOPLE SO AROUSED.

THERE'S ANOTHER PERVERT IN THE ROOM.

call»16 END

NARUSAWA-SAN.
I DON'T HAVE TO WAIT ANY LONGER, RIGHT?
BECAUSE WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER FROM NOW ON, RIGHT?
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE...
...WE CAN FINALLY BE TOGETHER.

Yamimaru Enjin Presents

Voice or Noise

Fami
WEL-COME!
WE'RE HOME.
...AND WORKED ALL EVE-NING AT MY PART-TIME JOB.
HE RE-MEMBERS THIS ALLEY!
WAIT, NO. THIS WAY!
WHICH WAY?
I SPENT THE WHOLE DAY LOOKING FOR THE RABBIT'S OWNER...
WOW, HE'S TOTALLY LOST.
Which way now?
THEN AT NIGHT...
WELCOME HOME, SHINICHIRO!
IS THIS A PICTURE-PERFECT FAMILY?
Ha ha ha!
WOW, YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT JAPAN.
I KNOW IT'S NOT IZZY'S FAULT, BUT I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING!
DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFER-ENCE BETWEEN SOUMEN, HIYAMUGI, AND UDON?
THE THICK-NESS!
YUP!
WE'RE HAVING SOUMEN FOR DINNER.
PEACE & HARMONY

And I was so close that time!
Aagh!
Gasp!
IT WAS JUST A DREAM.
I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO BE ALONE TOGETHER.
WHEN DID WE LAST EVEN KISS?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT TIME WAS MY BEST CHANCE YET!
We could've done so much after that!
NOOOOOOO
WE KEEP TAKING ON MORE AND MORE FREE-LOADERS!
BUT HOW WRONG I WAS!
Gaaaah!

NARUSAWA-SAN...
HE'S ASLEEP.
I USED TO SNEAK IN TO WATCH HIM A LOT.
...SINCE I GOT TO WATCH HIM SLEEP.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
QUIET. QUIET NOW.
I SHOULD HAVE TIME BEFORE DAWN.
IT'S NO ONE'S FAULT, REALLY, BUT I'VE BEEN NEEDING MY NARUSAWA FIX.
CLATCH
Tip-toe
DAMN, WHERE'D MY LOVEY-DOVEY LIFE TOGETHER GO?
Tip-toe

Aaaw...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GHOST, OUT TO GET ME.
SAME HERE.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST SLEEPING WITH YOUR EYES HALF-OPEN.
YOU SCARED ME. I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE AWAKE.
WHAT'S WRONG?
He was awake!
Um.
Er!
Huh?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN A GHOST OUT TO GET YOU?
BECAUSE I WAS JUST THINKING HOW MUCH I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
WHAT?
I CAN'T!
I CAN'T WIN AGAINST YOU!
I USED TO WONDER WHAT IT WAS.
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I WAS FEELING BACK THEN.
I'D GET ALL HAZY-EYED JUST WATCHING HIM.
BACK WHEN MY LOVE WAS ONE-SIDED, IT WAS ONLY WHEN HE WAS ASLEEP THAT IT FELT LIKE HE WAS ALL MINE.
NARUSAWA-SAN.
HUH?
I WAS PRETTY BRAVE BACK THEN, TOO.
BUT HOW AM I NOW?
I'm still sneaking around in the dark.

YOU WE WERE TRYING TO MAKE ME JEALOUS, RIGHT?
HUH?
THAT'S NOT--
HUH?
TESTING YOU?
SLEEP-ING WITH ISADORE AND GETTING ALL BUDDY-BUDDY WITH HIM.
WELL, I GUESS I WAS INADVER-TENTLY.
Huuuh?
PANIC
SHOULD WE BE DISCUS-SING THIS NOW?
IT WAS STARTING TO BOTHER ME.

GOOD.
YOU'RE THE REAL THING.
AND COULON'T HE SAY...
...I WAS LIKE A DREAM?
SO...
...ARE YOU TIRED OF TESTING ME?
OF COURSE.
YOU BET I'M REAL.
YOU SHOULD THANK ME FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY.

I NEVER MEANT...
...TO SEDUCE HIM.
ISA-DORE?
BUT THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED.
SO?
SO WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...
...ALL OF A SUD-DEN?
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT...
...HOW ISADORE FEELS?
SO, WERE YOU REALLY JEALOUS?
THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
HUH?
WHAT?
NOW HE'S TAKEN A SHINE TO YOU.
I SAID TO GET ALONG WITH HIM, NOT TO GET INTO HIS PANTS.
WHAT DOES IT MATTER TO ME...
...HOW ISADORE FEELS ABOUT ME?

EVEN THOUGH HE HAS NO PROBLEM PLAYING AROUND WITH MY FEELINGS...
...HE NEVER ACTS ON HIS OWN.
NARUSAWA-SAN'S ALWAYS TESTING PEOPLE.
SO YOU'RE STILL MAD AT ME?
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
WHAT GIVES?
EVEN SO, I'M WARNING YOU FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
DON'T YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T CONTROL SOMEONE'S FEELINGS SO EASILY?

WHO CARES HOW OTHER PEOPLE FEEL? THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT!
WHY?!
...TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR IT, BUT YOU SHOULD AT LEAST FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY.
I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU...
BECAUSE I USED HIM?
IS THAT WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU?
YES.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO, BUT YOU USED ISADORE TO GET AT ME.
SO HE WASN'T...
...JEALOUS AFTER ALL?
AND YET...

...WAITING AND BEING JEALOUS AND BEING JERKED AROUND.
I'M ALWAYS THE ONLY ONE...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STARTED ALL THIS!
FORGET ABOUT ISADORE, YOU HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, TOO!
EVEN THOUGH ...
...I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!
WHY WON'T YOU BE FLUSTERED FOR ONCE?!
SHINICHIRO.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT!
EVEN THOUGH YOU CONTROL ME SO EASILY?!
GRPP
I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE!
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?!
HOW CAN I MOVE YOUR HEART?

Voice of Noise

THUMP
Um...
WELL, LOTS OF STUFF!
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT?
JEEZ, MY HEART'S SO LOUD!
SOME-THING MORE.
I'VE BEEN SAYING ...
...THAT I WANTED SOMETHING TO HAPPEN.
LIKE ...
...YOU KNOW, STUFF!
I can't breathe.
TIME OUT.
WAIT.
HEY.
SHEESH!
YOU'RE THE ONE CAUSING IT.
Gasp!
Huff
ERRGH.
YOUR HEART'S BEATING SO FAST.
ARE YOU OKAY?
"I WANT TO TAKE YOU."
I SAID IT!
I ACTUALLY SAID IT!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
YOU WANT TO TAKE ME?
DO YOU MEAN THAT?
YOU CAN'T KEEP TEASING ME!
OF COURSE!
Huff!

I'M TIRED OF THIS.
ARE YOU THE LEAST BIT TURNED ON?
I AM.
I'M VERY TURNED ON.
HUH?
THE AROUSAL...
...IN YOUR VOICE...
...GETS ME SO HOT.
I LOVE YOUR VOICE.
YOU LIKE...
...MY VOICE?
YES, IT HEATS ME UP.
I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF HEARING THE EMOTION BEHIND IT.
WHOA!
I WANT SOMEONE TO HEAR THIS!
I DON'T CARE WHO, ANYONE!
TELL ME MORE LIKE THAT.
SAY MORE.
SO YOU HAVE...
...PARTS YOU LIKE ABOUT ME?
BUT--
Boo.
OF COURSE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW ON-EDGE YOU HAVE ME?
THAT ALWAYS MAKES ME SO UNEASY.
I'M ALWAYS WONDERING HOW SERIOUS YOUR LOVE IS.
THAT'S WHY...

HEY, THAT'S NOT...
nom nom
SHINI-CHIRO.
SORRY, DOES IT HURT?
Lick
Lick
Lick
Haah
THAT'S TURNING ME ON EVEN MORE.
C'mon
TIME TO TRADE PLACES.
HUH?

You just bit me!
OW, OW!
OUCH!
SHIN!
SHINI-CHIRO!
Ready or not, here I come!
TODAY, YOU'RE MINE!
OW!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
Mmah!
OH!
It's bleeding!
Whooa!
GULP
DON'T BITE ME!
Huff!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BITE YOU.
I CAN'T STOP!
I CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF!
SORRY! I'M SORRY!
IT'S JUST ...
Huff!

HE'S SUCKING MY NIPPLE!
AND WAIT!
NOT THERE!
WHOA!
WHOA!
HIS HANDS ...
WOW.
THIS IS TOO HOT!
MY WHOLE BODY'S ON FIRE AND I CAN'T SIT STILL.
I CAN FEEL THE BLOOD PUMPING THROUGH ME.
IT'S SO HARD.
NARUSAWA-SAN'S THINGIE IS TOUCHING ME.
SO IS MINE.
WHOA...
MY HEART'S POUNDING IN MY EARS.
AH!
Huff
SILLY.
QUIT MAKING THOSE SEXY SOUNDS.
NN.
SHIVR
NARUSAWA-SA--
AH!
NN!
SMEK
N-NO FAIR!
YOUR VOICE...
...IS WAY SEXIER!

NARU-SAWA-SAN.
SHIN...
...KEEP IT DOWN, WOULD YOU?
Ugh...
SORRY.
MM...
OH!
HM?
I REALLY COULDN'T STOP MYSELF LAST NIGHT.
SORRY.
YOU'VE GOT A HICKEY ON YOU.
I GOT A LITTLE AHEAD OF MYSELF.
HERE, TOO!

WHEN I FINALLY CAME TO, IT WAS MORNING.
...like jerk each other off
We did so many sexy things...
SEAL!
SEAL IT AWAY!
Hnnngh...
IT WASN'T A DREAM.
AND I DEFINITELY FEEL THAT GREAT FEELING THAT COMES WITH SEXUAL RELEASE.
If anything
OF COURSE I REMEM-BERED...
...EVERY-THING THAT I DID...
Overwhelming Evidence
...AND WHAT HE DID TO ME.

I'LL MAKE BREAKFAST. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
I'M HUNGRY!
I LOVE YOUR HANDS, NARUSAWA-SAN.
I LOVE THEM SO MUCH.
MARK ME EVERY-WHERE AS YOUR OWN.
EVERY-WHERE.
...LOVE SURE IS...
...A SCARY THING.
GOOD GRIEF.
OUR FEELINGS WEREN'T THE ONLY THINGS THAT GOT OUT OF CONTROL.
Haaa...
MAYBE I'M STILL YOUNG, BUT...

I'M GOING TO WORK HARDER ON THAT BEFORE NEXT TIME!
Okay!
NO NEED.
...HOW WILL I HANDLE DOING THE REAL THING?
Found one here, too!
I'M IN TROUBLE. IF I WENT THIS CRAZY JUST JERKING EACH OTHER OFF...
GULP

WHY DO YOU ASK?
I AM A LITTLE SORE HERE AND THERE.
HURT? NOPE!
...YOU DON'T HURT ANYWHERE, DO YOU?
Even my butt hurts a little.
I SEE.
SORRY.
Covered in hickies and bite marks.
Has trouble containing himself.
CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THE REAL THING.
Yee-hee!
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...

YOU MAY NOT KNOW THIS, SO LET ME TELL IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.
IF HE DOESN'T BEEP YOU IN THE BEEP-BEEP, THEN IT'S NOT CONSIDERED SEX.
CELE-BRATE?
I GUESS YOU'RE NOT COMPLETELY OFF.
YEAH?
SHIN-CHAN.
MAYBE HAVE A SPECIAL DINNER WITH RED RICE.
Just kidding
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
I'M SAYING IT'S TOO EARLY TO GET SO HAPPY.
YOU HAVEN'T REALLY DONE "IT" YET.
WHO CARES?
THAT'S JUST FOR US TWO TO KNOW.
And I'm not telling. Hee hee!
He's in his own world.
.....
YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SQUAT LIKE THAT IF YOUR ASS HURT.
Meaning not yet

PLUMP
HERE YOU GO, ACHT!
I'LL SHARE THIS WITH YOU! ♡
.....
YOU'RE GLOWING.
WHAT HAP-PENED?
Right?
HUH? IT'S NOT MY BIRTHDAY.
WHAT'S THE HARM? LET'S CELE-BRATE WITH CANDLES!
THEN WE SHOULD GET YOU A BIRTHDAY CAKE WITH CANDLES!
Celebrate good times, come on!
4 ?"
4 ?"
A WHOLE BLOCK OF TOFU?!
DID SOME-THING GOOD --
OH, WOW!
Really?!
SOME-THING DID HAPPEN!
No fair
HEH HEH! IT DID, BUT I'M NOT TELLING.

NEARLY COST ME ONE OF MY NINE LIVES.
Phew!
EVERY-ONE SURE IS FRIENDLY IN THIS HOUSE.
MROW!
I'm taking this back because of you're saying weird stuff!
MROW! MROW!
THE PEOPLE HERE TALK TO THE ANIMALS SO SERIOUSLY.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A CAT.
ANYWAY, GO CALL EVERYONE FOR BREAK-FAST.
IGNOR-ING ME, HUH?
He got stronger in one night.
SLIP
GLANCE
SHUDDER
WHAT ARE YOU SO UPSET ABOUT?
B-BREAK-FAST!
TH-THE CREEP WAS THERE!
HE WAS WICKED SCARY!
WHAT WAS HE DOING THERE?
?
B-B-B--
BREAK-FAST!
ZOOM

EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE JUST PETS.

ALL THE OWNERS IN THIS HOUSE ARE MAD. AND I'M NO EXCEPTION.

MAYBE THERE WAS NO NEED TO PUT UP THIS FRONT AS THE "GOOD BOY" AFTER ALL.

C'MON.

NOW COME HERE.

YOU BETTER AND GET ALONG WITH ME.

call »17 END

VOICE OR NOISE 3
Created by Yamimaru Enjin

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voice or noise™

3

青 BLU

Yamimoto Enjin

Manga
Romance

voice or n@ise

3

Can the ability to talk to animals translate into the language of love?

After three years abroad, Natusawa finally comes back to Japan, where he finds his little Shinichiro is all grown up...and waiting for a reward! But before they can finally consummate their love, their small home is occupied by the creepy but alluring exchange student, Isadora! With more and more freeloaders joining the party, how can Shinichiro ever expect to get some alone time with his one true love?

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